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MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE.

From a portrait in the Rhode Island Historical Society,  
Providence, R. I.

#14200

The Remains  
of  
Major-General Nathanael Greene

A REPORT

OF THE

JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY OF RHODE ISLAND APPOINTED TO  
TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE DESIRABILITY  
OF SECURING WITHIN THE STATE OF RHODE  
ISLAND A PERMANENT RESTING-PLACE FOR THE  
REMAINS OF GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE

PROVIDENCE

E. L. FREEMAN & SONS, PRINTERS TO THE STATE

1903



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## Report.

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*To the Honorable the General Assembly of  
the State of Rhode Island and Providence  
Plantations:*

The Joint Special Committee of the General Assembly, appointed to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of General Nathanael Greene within this State, respectfully reports that on the fifth of March, 1901, the late Governor Gregory received the following telegram, dated Savannah, Ga., March 4, 1901, from Col. Asa Bird Gardiner, of New York, President of the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati:

“DE SOTO HOTEL, SAVANNAH, GA., Mar. 4.

“HON. WILLIAM GREGORY, *Governor,*  
*State of R. I., Prov.:*

“Have to announce to you and Rhode Island General Assembly that, after diligent search several days, committee appointed by Rhode

Island state society of Cincinnati from among eminent citizens Savannah discovered to-day remains Major-General Nathanael Greene in Colonial cemetery. Expenses being borne by society congratulate you this happy discovery. Letter mailed.

“ASA BIRD GARDINER,  
*Prest. R. I. Cincinnati Chairman*  
*Committee.”*

This telegram was duly communicated to both branches of the General Assembly; subsequently Governor Gregory received by mail a communication, dated March 13, 1901, from Col. Gardiner, setting forth with much detail the circumstances connected with the discovery of the remains of General Nathanael Greene in what is known as Colonial Park, in the city of Savannah, Ga., but formerly one of the ancient burial grounds of said city. (Exhibit A.)

This statement was also communicated by Governor Gregory to the General Assembly of Rhode Island, then in session, and in the Senate, March 20, 1901, was read, and ordered communicated to the House of Representatives, and on the same day, in House of Repre-

sentatives, was "laid on the table temporarily." The next day, March 21, 1901, the communication was referred, in House of Representatives, to the Committee on Education.

On account of the great amount of business in the hands of the committee, and it being near the close of the session, no action was taken before the adjournment.

On January 21, 1902, Col. Gardiner, in a letter to Hon. Charles P. Bennett, Secretary of State, requested that this communication be brought to the attention of the Governor; and on February 11, 1902, Governor Kimball—Governor Gregory having deceased<sup>1</sup>—communicated to the Senate the correspondence which had passed between himself and Col. Gardiner relative to the subject (Exhibit B), which was duly referred to the House of Representatives. Two days later, February 13, 1902, a resolution, "creating a joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene within this state," was adopted, which is as follows :

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<sup>1</sup> William Gregory, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, died December 16, 1901.

“ STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &C.

“ IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

“January Session, A. D. 1902.

“ RESOLUTION creating a joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene within the state.

[Passed February 13, 1902.]

“*Resolved*, That two members of the senate and three members of the house of representatives be and they hereby are appointed a joint special committee to inquire into and ascertain the desirability of securing within the state of Rhode Island a permanent resting place for the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene.”

[Endorsement.]

“ RESOLUTION

creating a joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene within the state.”

The committee appointed pursuant to this resolution consisted of Messrs. Horace F. Horton, of Cranston, and James E. Banigan, of Pawtucket, of the Senate; and Messrs. Frank T. Easton, of Providence, J. Stacy Brown, of Newport, and Harry H. Shepard, of Bristol, of



HIS EXCELLENCY CHARLES DEAN KIMBALL,  
Governor of Rhode Island.



the House. Subsequently another resolution was adopted, and Francis W. Greene, of Warwick, a member of the House of Representatives, was added to the committee,<sup>1</sup> and the following resolution adopted:

“RESOLUTION authorizing the joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of General Nathanael Greene within the state to employ a secretary, and making an appropriation for the expenses of said committee.

[Passed February 26, 1902.]

“*Resolved*, That the joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of General Nathanael Greene within the state be and they hereby are authorized to employ a secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> “RESOLUTION making an additional member of the joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene within the state.

[No. 28. Passed March 5, 1902.]

“*Resolved*, That representative Francis W. Greene, of Warwick, a kinsman of General Nathanael Greene, be and he hereby is appointed a member of the joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of General Nathanael Greene within the state, in addition to the members of said committee hitherto appointed.”

*"Resolved,* That the state auditor is hereby authorized and directed to draw his order on the state treasurer, payable out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the necessary expenses of said committee, including compensation of the secretary thereof, upon receipt of vouchers therefor duly approved by the governor."

On February 25, 1902, the Committee on Education asked to be relieved from further consideration of the matter, and the whole subject was referred to the Joint Special Committee created by the foregoing resolutions.

At an informal meeting of the members of this committee, Mr. Easton was authorized to invite Col. Gardiner to come to Providence and appear before the committee to discuss the subject, to which invitation Col. Gardiner promptly replied that he would be in Providence on March 5, and meet the committee.

The committee met for organization in the Governor's room, at the State House, on March 4, 1902, and organized with Hon. Horace F. Horton, of Cranston, as chairman, and Edward Field, of Providence, as secretary.

March 5, 1902, the committee, with His Excellency Governor Kimball, met at the Gov-



ernor's room, State House; Col. Gardiner was also present, and explained the circumstances attending the discovery of the remains of Gen. Greene.

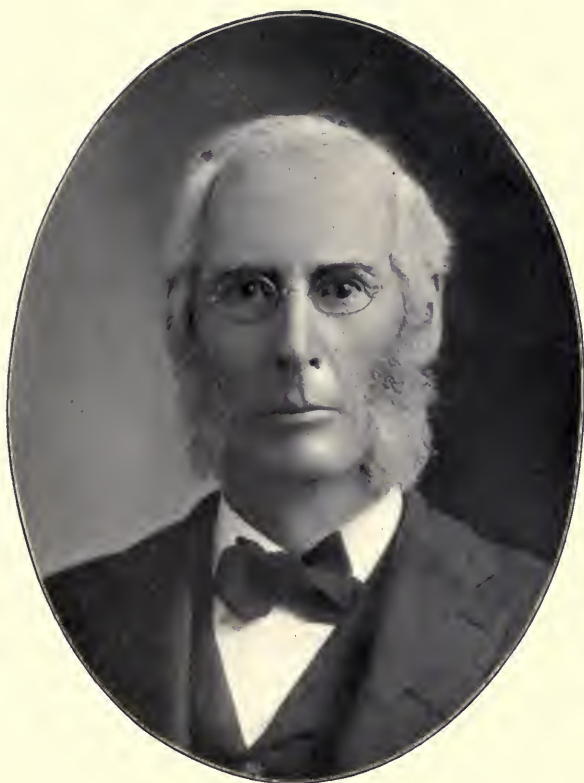
During the period which had elapsed since the news of the discovery of Gen. Greene's remains had been made public, doubts had been expressed by many persons as to the identity of these remains; and some of the newspapers of the country had carelessly referred to the subject, emphasizing that doubt which many had entertained. Besides this, it had come to the attention of your committee that the impression prevailed in the South that the State of Rhode Island was striving to secure these remains, urging as a reason for so doing that the State was the birthplace of Gen. Greene, and that his remains should be brought back to the place of his birth and there be interred. In order that the committee might be fully advised regarding the whole situation, and that the most complete evidence obtainable of the identity of the remains be secured before taking any action whatever, it was decided to send a representative to Savannah, for the purpose of fully investigating the whole subject; and on March 6, the committee

directed the secretary to proceed to Savannah, Ga., and such other places as might be necessary, for the purpose of making such investigation and inquiry regarding the discovery of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene as would serve to assist in establishing their identity, and also for the purpose of securing any other information pertinent to the subject.

Pursuant to the direction of the committee, Mr. Field visited the cities of Savannah and New York, where he made such investigation and inquiry as had been contemplated by your committee, and, upon returning, reported the results of his inquiry, the material facts of which are included in the account of the death of Gen. Greene, his burial, the discovery of the remains, and their final interment, which is annexed hereto and made a part of this report.

Upon the arrival of Mr. Field in Savannah, he was invited to meet the local committee, arranging for the ceremonies incident to the re-interment of the remains of Gen. Greene.

At this meeting, the committee's representative stated that Rhode Island had expressed no preference as to the place of final interment of the remains, nor would that State take any



HORACE F. HORTON,  
Chairman, Committee of Rhode Island General Assembly.



action relative to the matter until the committee of the General Assembly had been thoroughly informed of the situation. Your committee is assured that this statement of the impartial position of the State touching the matter was reassuring and highly pleasing to the people of Savannah, for it had been understood, among the committee members and others, that Rhode Island had declared its intention to take steps to secure the remains for final interment at Providence; and that the Legislature had appropriated funds to defray the expenses of the funeral, of descendants of Gen. Greene who might attend, and probably of an escort for the remains from the Chatham Artillery. This impression was gained through private letters received in Savannah.

This supposed attitude of Rhode Island in relation to the subject had aroused some feeling, in some portions of the South, against the State, and had been made the subject of several newspaper stories in which the State had been criticised for its action; and a pamphlet containing uncomplimentary allusions to the subject had been given wide publicity. It was perhaps fortunate that the State of Rhode Island had its representative present in Savan-

nah, at this particular time, to explain the situation and correct the impression that prevailed.

As the right to the disposition of the remains of Gen. Greene rested entirely with his descendants, your committee felt that it was desirable to know officially their feelings in the matter before any action was taken by the State regarding the subject. With that end in view, your committee prepared and submitted to your honorable body the following preamble and resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

“STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE  
PLANTATIONS.

“IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

“January Session, A. D. 1902.

“RESOLUTION, relative to the remains of General Nathanael Greene.

“*Whereas*, The people of Rhode Island have learned, with profound satisfaction, that the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, who died at his plantation, at Mulberry Grove, in the State of Georgia, on the 19th of June, 1786, have recently been discovered in a vault in Colonial Park, formerly one of the ancient cemeteries in the City of Savannah, Georgia;

*"And Whereas,* The people of Rhode Island, recognizing the eminent services which Nathanael Greene gave to the cause of liberty during the struggle for American independence, desire to show its appreciation of his great genius as a military commander and his sterling worth as a citizen, and to pay its tribute to the memory of so distinguished a son of Rhode Island when those remains are finally committed to earth.

*"Be it therefore Resolved,* That the joint special committee of the general assembly of the State of Rhode Island, appointed to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene within the State, be and is hereby authorized to take such action as may be necessary to ascertain the wishes of the descendants of General Greene as to the place of final interment of these honored remains, and in the event that the descendants of General Greene desire to have his remains buried within this State, said committee is hereby directed to report the fact to the general assembly forthwith, in order that suitable provision may be made for the ceremonies therefor and for an appropriate memorial to mark the place of such interment; but in the event that the descendants of General Greene desire to have his remains finally buried elsewhere than within this State, then said committee is hereby authorized to make such

arrangements as may be suitable and proper in order that the State of Rhode Island may be represented at such interment and may do full honor to the memory of its distinguished son.

*“Resolved,* That the sum of two thousand dollars be and the same hereby is appropriated to defray the expenses of said committee, including the making of the said inquiries of the descendants of General Greene, and provisions for the representation of the State at his burial, in case such burial shall be without the State; and the state auditor is hereby directed to draw his orders from time to time upon the general treasurer for so much of said sum as may be necessary, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, upon the receipt of proper vouchers approved by the governor.”

Pursuant to the direction therein contained, the following letter of inquiry was sent to each of the known descendants of General Greene:

“Your attention is respectfully called to the enclosed copy of the resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island, passed at the January session, A. D. 1902.

“Pursuant to the directions therein, this committee would be pleased to have you express your preference for the place of burial of





JAMES E. BANIGAN,

Member of Committee of Rhode Island General Assembly.



the remains of your distinguished ancestor, Major-General Nathanael Greene, that this State may be able to take action towards paying its tribute of respect to his memory.

“In asking you to thus signify your preference for the spot which shall be his final resting place, the committee feels that it would fail to do its full duty if reference was not made to the fact that the people of Rhode Island hold in sacred memory the name and fame of him, who, during the eventful days of the struggle for American Independence, for indefatigable industry, for strength and breadth of intelligence, and for unselfish devotion to the public service, was second only to Washington, and would esteem it a high honor to accept from his descendants those honored remains for interment in the soil of the State where rest the ashes of his ancestors.

“The favor of a prompt reply would greatly facilitate the duty of the committee.”

This letter was sent to twenty-three descendants of Gen. Greene, in the southern, middle, and eastern States, and replies were received from eighteen; all but three expressing the wish that the remains be re-interred in the city of Savannah, where they had rested since the death of their distinguished ancestor; these three, however, expressed a preference

for the battle-field of Guilford, in North Carolina, for their final resting place.

The decision of a majority of the descendants of Gen. Greene, as expressed by the replies to your committee, determined, as far as this State was concerned, the place of final interment.

In the meanwhile a petition from the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island, addressed to "The Honorable, the Governor and General Assembly," had been received by the Governor, which was referred to your committee. (Exhibit C).

This petition set forth with much detail the important facts of General Greene's connection with Rhode Island and that society of which he was formerly president, and asked that a reasonable appropriation be made by the State for the expenses incurred in connection with the discovery of the remains, and for such further necessary disbursements as might be incurred in their final interment.

Before any action could be taken relative to this proposition, your committee was informed that an "Association of Patriotic Societies" had been formed in Savannah for the purpose of taking full charge of the re-interment of the remains of Gen. Greene and assuming the en-

tire expense thereof, and in October invitations were received by the Governor and your committee from this association to be its guest at the ceremonies connected with the re-interment, at Savannah, Georgia, on Friday, November 14, 1902.

All the members of the committee, with the exception of Mr. Shepard, who was detained by reason of business engagements, accompanied by Edward Field, secretary, Executive Secretary Charles H. Howland, Master George W. G. Carpenter, son of Alva E. and Anna M. (Greene) Carpenter, and great-great-grandson of Nathanael Greene, and Mr. George C. Nightingale, left Providence on Tuesday, November 11, and arrived in Savannah on Thursday morning, the 13th, where they were met at the Union Station by a committee consisting of Gen. W. W. Gordon, Alderman Frank F. Jones, Mr. W. R. Leaken, Mr. J. M. Barnard, Jr., Mr. F. D. Bloodworth, Mr. Alfred Dearing Harden, and Capt. G. B. Pritchard, and were escorted to the De Soto Hotel, where accommodations had been provided for them during their stay as guests of the association, and where they spent the remainder of the morning. In the afternoon, shortly before 4 o'clock,

the representatives from Rhode Island were taken for a drive, escorted by a committee consisting of Mr. W. R. Leaken, chairman, Captain C. B. Pritchard, F. F. Jones, J. M. Barnard, Jr., S. E. Theus, A. D. Harden, G. H. Remshart, and Charles Ellis, the committee of entertainment appointed by the Association of Patriotic Societies.

The trip included a visit to Bonaventure Cemetery, formerly an extensive plantation, then to the Savannah Yacht Club and the Casino—a popular river resort on the site of old Fort Beauregard. From the Casino the party was driven back to the city, and then a trip to various points of interest in the city was made. The drive came to an end about 6:30 o'clock, when the party returned to the De Soto for a short rest before being taken by the same committee to the annual dinner of the Oglethorpe Club.

Invitations, extending the courtesies of the various clubs in Savannah, were received by each member of the party upon their arrival. On Friday morning His Excellency Governor Kimball arrived in Savannah, and was received at the depot by a delegation from the Association of Patriotic Societies, and was at once



FRANK T. EASTON,

Member of Committee of Rhode Island General Assembly.





driven to the De Soto Hotel. On the day before, His Honor Emory Speer, United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, had caused the following order to be entered upon the records of the court:

"Upon motion of the committee of the bar of the United States Courts, ordered that the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society of Colonial Dames of America, the Society of the Cincinnati, the Sons of the Revolution, the Society of the Colonial Wars, and the guests of the Associated Patriotic Societies be and they are hereby cordially invited to attend the session of the United States Courts in the government building at half past 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, the 14th inst., to greet his excellency, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island.

"Ordered, further, That the city papers be requested to publish this invitation.

"EMORY SPEER, *Judge.*"

The idea had its inception in the minds of Messrs. W. R. Leaken, W. W. Gordon, Jr., Walter G. Charlton, and Edward S. Elliott, representing the Association of Patriotic Societies. It was on motion of Capt. Gordon,

“Who submitted that the Governor of Rhode Island would be pleased to meet the Judge of the United States Courts, in the beautiful temple of justice, that the order of court, embodying an invitation, was entered by Judge Speer.”

At about 10:30 o'clock, His Excellency Governor Kimball, your committee, and the other representatives from Rhode Island were driven to the Government building and escorted to the spacious court-room. Here was a brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, representing the different patriotic societies, invited to take part in this reception. At 11 o'clock, the court crier commanded silence, and Judge Speer, escorting His Excellency Governor Kimball, entered, and took seats upon the bench.

Judge Speer, in his address of welcome, said:

“Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen: It gave me great happiness to grant the order sought by patriotic members of the bar, which has resulted in this auspicious meeting.

“Indeed, all the felicities seem to conspire to make the incident appropriate. The Gov-

error of one of the thirteen original States, with an ennobling, patriotic mission, has come to visit the people of another. These two States have been, and are, about equally devoted to the union of all the States. It is true that along in the early 60's, for about four years, Georgia tried to go out; but for about the same length of time after the constitution was adopted Rhode Island stayed out, and not until long after our first President had been inaugurated did the charming little sister come reluctantly pouting into the family circle of States. But since then what a devoted little sister she has been, and how we all love her, and how happy we are to welcome her chief magistrate.

“And the spot on which we stand, marked by this exquisite structure of that government which Rhode Island and Georgia at least will forever uphold, is itself eloquent with memories of that great past which made our nation possible.

“Little more than a hundred and twenty-three years ago, the Daughters of the Revolution of that day, the forebears of many now present, cowering in cellars within the sound of my voice, hugged their little ones to their agonized hearts, as the *mitraille* of cannon

balls and grape-shot from the allied batteries swept the ramparts of the British and shattered the fragile structures above their heads.

“Now, the Daughters never cower, but, regnant, triumph in the hearts of their countrymen. And more, on this lot, marked out by the fine engineering eye of James Edward Oglethorpe, stood the first court house in the colony of Georgia, and there the noble founder sought to administer justice, perchance between contending Colonial Dames of that day; and perchance, also, in the presence of their charms, discovered that, if justice is always blind, judges sometimes are not. The court house of the week was the church of the Sabbath, and here John Wesley preached; and it was not without consolation to the judiciary, when we recall that a “colonial” influence upon the preacher was not less effective than upon the judge.

“The palms which rustle with the zephyrs of our soft clime, the pines sighing with æolian measures, the river as it flows majestic to the sea, are all voiceful of an heroic past. And surely the people of this high-minded city may deservedly appropriate the beautiful lines of Cowper:



HON. EMORY SPEER,  
United States District Judge for the Southern District  
of Georgia.



‘ We talk of patriots, and their deeds, as they deserve,  
Receive proud recompense. We give in charge their  
names to the sweet lyre.

The historic Muse, proud of the sacred treasure,  
Marches with it down to latest times,  
And sculpture in her turn gives bond in stone  
And ever during brass, to guard and to mortalize  
the trust.’

“ But at another hour, and by a gallant son  
of New York, will there be adequate expression  
of this inspiring sentiment. Here and now we  
meet to felicitate ourselves on the presence,  
and to welcome that distinguished American  
and his patriotic fellow citizens, Gov. Kimball,  
the chief magistrate of Rhode Island.”

At the conclusion of the address His Excellency Governor Kimball arose to respond, and, as a mark of greeting, his audience, too, arose.

Governor Kimball said :

“ Your Honor, Members of Patriotic Societies, Ladies and Guests : The State of Rhode Island is honored by this greeting of the eminent people of Georgia. The tie that binds the two States of the American Union had its beginning in the dark days of the Revolutionary War. The sacrifices that the people of

both States made for a common cause endeared them to each other.

“Circumstances so shaped themselves that it became the lot of the best soldier Rhode Island produced, the famous Gen. Nathanael Greene, to command the Department of the South. Other States have been proud of their share in the winning of our independence, and we are proud that we furnished him to the American Army.

“It has been the misfortune of some that their services have not been appreciated, but we take a pride in knowing that the people of the Southern States realize the important military services of Gen. Greene. When the State of Georgia recognized those services and invited him to become one of her citizens we shared in the honor paid to him, though we were sorry to lose him.

“Circumstances rapidly change the issues of events in this country. The justifiable conservatism of our ancestors in Rhode Island and the devotion of the people of Georgia to their State have passed into history. The people of Rhode Island, of Georgia, and of every other State stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of our common country. They



knew that the system of government founded by our fathers has stood as severe tests as fall to the lot of government, and stood them successfully.

“We realize that this country is the hope of the thinking men of the world; that they expect that new problems that have vexed philosophers since the dawn of history may be settled. We can assure them that Georgia and Rhode Island will do their share in fulfilling the destiny that we believe is in store for the people of the United States.”

His Excellency was heartily applauded at the conclusion of his response to the eloquent welcome of Judge Speer.

At the conclusion of Gov. Kimball's address, District Attorney W. R. Leaken moved that the court adjourn for the day, in honor to the memory of Gen. Greene; whereupon Judge Speer declared the court adjourned. It is probable that the United States Court never before adjourned under such brilliant auspices. The *Savannah Morning News*, in its account of this interesting occasion, said:

“Pregnant as it was with the fraternal feeling and patriotic sentiment which was distinctively character-

istic of the august occasion, Judge Speer's address touched a responsive chord with his cultured audience. The reply of Gov. Kimball was in most happy vein, voicing most appropriately the appreciation of the chief executive and his patriotic fellow-citizens.

"It was a gathering calculated to inspire patriotism—a judge of the United States judiciary in the Empire State of the South, welcoming from the little sister State of Rhode Island—the native heath of the great general whose remains have for a century, and more, reposed in Georgia's soil—her chief executive and the representatives of her General Assembly.

"There were present, too, many distinguished guests from a distance, daughters and dames of illustrious lineage, sons whose progenitors framed the constitution and welded the indissoluble bond of fraternity between the American and French peoples, representatives of those who bled for their country at Bunker Hill and suffered sacrifice with Washington at Valley Forge, and even the lineal descendants of the great chieftain in commemoration of whose valiant services to his country the brilliant assemblage was intended."

After the reception at the United States Courts, the party was taken by a committee of the association to the Cotton Exchange, where the time was spent most enjoyably, after which they returned to the hotel for lunch and to make preparation for the ceremonies at-



J. STACY BROWN,

Member of Committee of Rhode Island General Assembly.



tending the re-interment of the remains of Gen. Greene, later in the day.

These ceremonies were of a most dignified and imposing kind. A proclamation of the acting mayor had made the day practically a holiday; all the public offices were closed, and many of the merchants and tradesmen laid aside their business to unite in paying their tribute of respect to the memory of the distinguished son of Rhode Island, the great commander in the struggle for American Independence, and the sterling citizen of Georgia. People from without the city joined with those of Savannah to take part in this patriotic demonstration. Your committee took part in these proceedings, and a full account of the exercises will be found in the historical account heretofore referred to and made a part of this report and annexed hereto.

The city of Savannah is to be congratulated on the success of this great patriotic ceremony. It was formal, dignified, patriotic; and, in its perfect systematic arrangement of details, showed the high qualities of the military genius under whose direction the whole affair was planned and so successfully carried out.

On Friday evening, His Excellency Gov-

ernor Kimball was entertained at dinner at the home of His Honor Pope Barrow, Judge of the Superior Court of Chatham County. The other guests at the dinner being Col. Asa Bird Gardiner, Hon. A. O. Bacon, U. S. Senator from Georgia, Mr. T. P. Ravenel, Mr. G. W. Owens, Judge S. B. Adams, Gen. W. W. Gordon, Mr. Henry C. Cunningham, and Walter G. Charlton, Esq.

In closing this report, the members of your committee desire to place upon record their deep appreciation of the attention and courtesies shown them by the people of Savannah from the time of their arrival until their departure. They also wish to express their thanks for the many kindnesses shown the representatives from Rhode Island by the officers and members of the Oglethorpe Club, the Tomachichi Club, the Hussars' Club, and the Savannah Yacht Club.

The Association of Patriotic Societies, whose guests your committee were, exemplified in its most perfect form that hospitality for which the South has such an enviable reputation. Business men and those in official life gave freely of their time to contribute to the comfort and welfare of their guests; and when it

is considered that the time of the visit was at a particularly busy season of the year, this fact is doubly significant.

It would be impossible to name each person individually who did so much to make the visit of your committee to the city of Savannah so thoroughly pleasant, for all the citizens of Savannah seemed to be united in one grand committee, charged with the duty of anticipating the wants and seeing that the visitors from Rhode Island lacked for nothing.

The members of this committee, however, desire to particularly thank the Association of Patriotic Societies for the very generous hospitality extended them during their stay in the city of Savannah, and to express their appreciation of the services rendered by Gen. W. W. Gordon, President of the Association, and to Mr. Robert Tyler Waller, Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

HORACE F. HORTON, *Chairman.*

JAMES E. BANIGAN,

FRANK T. EASTON,

J. STACY BROWN,

HARRY H. SHEPARD,

FRANCIS W. GREENE,

EDWARD FIELD, *Secretary.*

January 8, 1903.

## Exhibit A.

THE WALDORF-ASTORIA,

NEW YORK, March 13th, 1901.

HON. WILLIAM GREGORY,

*Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations,  
Executive Chamber,  
Providence, R. I.*

SIR:—In my telegram of March 4th, I announced the finding of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene in the Colonial Cemetery in the City of Savannah, Georgia, by a committee appointed for that purpose by the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati, and I now have the honor to make a more detailed report on this interesting subject.

The Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati was organized by the Rhode Island Continental Line of the Revolution, at Saratoga Barracks, on the Hudson, June 24th, 1783. At the subsequent meeting, held in the Senate Chamber, State House, Providence, on December 23rd, 1783, Major-General Nathanael Greene presided, and was re-elected, on every succeeding fourth of July, president, until his decease, he having presided for the last time at Newport, July 4th, 1785.

On February 28th, 1814, this military society was duly incorporated by the General Assembly under its institution in 1783.





HARRY H. SHEPARD,

Member of Committee of Rhode Island General Assembly.



Major-General Greene was born in Rhode Island on August 7th, 1742, and throughout his life retained his citizenship in the State, and during the Revolutionary war was credited to the quota of Rhode Island in the Continental service. When he last departed, a few months before his decease, from Newport for Savannah, Georgia, he still retained his residence in Newport, Rhode Island.

By reason of his potential services to the State of Georgia in compelling its evacuation by the British army, the Legislature of that State gave him the confiscated estate of the former Tory Lieutenant Governor Grahame. This property, known as "Mulberry Grove," is located about twelve miles below Savannah, on the Savannah river.

Here General Greene died, suddenly, on June 19th, 1786, of a congestive chill; and on the following day his remains were taken by boat to Savannah, where they were interred in the Colonial cemetery belonging to Christ Episcopal Church, in the very centre of the then town of Savannah, with imposing civic and military ceremonies.

The *Georgia Gazette* of June 22nd, 1786, gives in detail the ceremonies at the obsequies, and mentions the Society of the Cincinnati in Georgia at that time, but since extinct, as the principal mourners. The entire town united in showing honor to the remains of this distinguished patriot, who, next to Washington, had shown himself greatest of our generals in the war of the Revolution. The *Georgia Gazette*, with reference to the place of interment, merely uses this

language: "When the military reached the vault in which the body was to be entombed, they opened to the right and left, and, resting on reverse arms, let it pass through. The funeral services being performed and the corpse deposited, thirteen discharges from the artillery and three from the musketry closed the scene. The whole was conducted with a solemnity suitable for the occasion."

It is noticeable that the particular vault in which the remains were deposited is not mentioned. These vaults were and are brick structures, mostly with a portion above ground, though there are a few which are wholly beneath the surface. The cemetery was surrounded by a thick and high brick wall of which but one side now remains, the wall being about twelve feet high, and toward which General Washington contributed to the erection.

Several years ago Christ Church gave to the City of Savannah the cemetery to be made into a park, on condition that the remains should not be disturbed by the city authorities. Thereupon the wall was taken down on three sides facing upon the several streets, leaving but the rear wall on an alleyway, separating the cemetery from the police barracks and, in lieu of trees, shrubs were planted and walks laid out.

When General W. T. Sherman's army, on its march from Atlanta, Ga., came to Savannah, many of the vaults were opened by the soldiers in search of valuables, and much wanton destruction of monuments and tablets ensued; so that to-day many of the vaults are without any means of identification. Some of these

were erected before and some after Major-General Greene's decease. There are, however, four well-known colonial vaults in a row at that part of the park which would be intersected if Lincoln street were prolonged.

It is remarkable that within a few years after 1786 there should have been a doubt as to the location of General Greene's remains. It might be supposed that General Greene's widow and immediate descendants who were at "Mulberry Grove" when he died would have known of the location. A very few years after his decease, however, Mrs. Nathanael Greene married Phineas Miller, Esq., and removed with her family to Dungeness House, Cumberland Island, Georgia, distant one hundred and twenty miles from Savannah, and for upward of forty years afterward none of the Greene family resided in or near Savannah. Mrs. Phineas Miller, the General's widow, died at Dungeness House, September 2nd, 1814, and the estate then became the property of her second daughter, Mrs. Louisa Shaw. The condition of the climate and surroundings at that time in Savannah were not conducive to longevity, and many of the residents there in the Revolutionary period soon passed away.

The place where Major-General Greene's remains were deposited was not indicated by any tablet, and, in a few years, many of those who had knowledge were deceased. Accordingly, in 1820, the council of Savannah appointed a committee to make an inquiry.

Their report was but a brief and partial one, and in it they stated they had not discovered the locality, and

that owing to insurmountable obstacles they had not examined the "Jones" vault, which is one of the four Colonial vaults above referred to and next to that nearest Ogelthorpe avenue of Colonel Richard Wylly, Deputy Quartermaster-General, Continental Army. That their report was unsatisfactory, partial, and inconclusive is evidenced by the fact that the council immediately appointed another committee, which, however, never appears to have done anything.

In 1840 the late George H. Johnstone, of Savannah, who had married a granddaughter of Major-General Greene, and the late Phineas Miller Nightingale, grandson of Major-General Greene and half-brother to Mr. Johnstone's wife, made another search, which was also very inconclusive.

Thereupon tradition, ever unreliable, invented several theories as to the disposition of General Greene's body.

One was that the remains had been deposited in the vault of former Lieutenant-Governor Grahame, whose estate had been confiscated and awarded to General Greene as aforesaid, and that his, Grahame's, wife's sister, Mrs. Morsman, returning to Savannah several years after the Revolution, had directed the negro slaves to remove the remains; and one traditional story said that they had been thrown into Negro Creek, and another that they had been buried at night in the cemetery.

A gentleman named Wright, now in his ninetieth year, residing in Atlanta, who has been a member of the Chatham artillery for seventy years, states that,



FRANCIS W. GREENE,

Member of Committee of Rhode Island General Assembly.





when a boy, he played in the cemetery, and that he and his playmates understood that a certain mound, near the corner of Oglethorpe avenue and Bull street, covered the remains of General Greene. Last August he came to Savannah, and, although the mound had been leveled, he indicated where, after a period of seventy-five years or more, he thought the mound had stood.

Another tradition was that the remains had been taken secretly to Cumberland Island by a member of the family, and several persons asserted positively that they had seen the tombstone there. This tombstone is, however, that of General Greene's widow, in which his name appears in large characters, and therefore, from a cursory observation, gave rise to this belief.

A number of years ago the city of Savannah erected an obelisk, intended both for Greene and Brigadier-General Count Casimir Pulaski, but for a long time no inscription was put upon it, and finally an inscription was put upon it to Major-General Greene as follows: "Soldier, patriot, the friend of Washington. This shaft has been reared by the people of Savannah in honor of his great services to the American Revolution."

Later another monument was erected to Brigadier-General Count Pulaski, who was mortally wounded in the unsuccessful assault on Savannah, October 9th, 1779.

The late President of the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati, the venerable and honorable

Nathanael Greene, M. D., LL. D., grandson of Major-General Greene, was born at the Dungeness House, Cumberland Island, Georgia, June 2nd, 1809, and died at Middletown, Rhode Island, July 8th, 1899, in his ninety-first year. He remembered his grandmother Greene and had spent much of his earlier life in Georgia, and, except during the period of the Civil War, was for about seventy years accustomed to go there every year.

He was very desirous of having a more thorough search made for the remains of his grandfather, and frequently gave me, as told him by his own father, Nathanael Ray Greene, a description of the remarkable head of his grandfather and its unusual brain development.

Recently, the subject having again been agitated in Savannah as to the whereabouts of General Greene's remains, the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati adopted resolutions for an inquiry, which in substance are as follows :

*"Whereas*, after diligent inquiry it is believed that full investigation has never yet been made to ascertain definitely where the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, President of the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati, were finally deposited after his decease at 'Mulberry Grove' in Savannah, Georgia, in 1786;

*"And whereas*, it is believed that a thorough search of the four old burial vaults in the old cemetery now forming a part of Colonial Park, Savannah, Georgia, will determine whether the remains are deposited in a certain one of said vaults, as believed by persons

well informed in matters of local history and as substantiated by authentic record ;

“ *And whereas*, it is particularly appropriate that the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations should do whatever may be necessary toward ascertaining the burial place of its first president, the great patriot and soldier, who next to Washington aided so potentially in securing the independence of the United States ;”

The society therefore appointed a committee to make the inquiry and appropriated the necessary funds to carry it into effect. This committee consisted of the Hon. George Anderson Mercer, President of the Georgia Historical Society, the Hon. Walter G. Charlton, President of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia, both of whom are eminent members of the Georgia bar, and Philip D. Daffin, Esq., Chairman of the Savannah Park and Tree Commission, and the Hon. William Harden, Secretary of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia and Librarian of its Historical Society, and Alfred Dearing Harden, Esq., of the Savannah bar, member of the South Carolina State Society of the Cincinnati, with myself as chairman.

These gentlemen entered heartily into the subject of the inquiry, and carefully weighed and considered everything of a traditional nature on this subject, in order that, if the special search which was desired should prove ineffective, then such weight should be given to the traditional stories as their peculiar character might warrant. The direct intention of the commit-

tee was, from the outset, as will be hereinafter set forth, to examine one particular vault as to which there was record information, but, as a matter of punctilious courtesy, the examination was delayed as to this vault until the last, in order to communicate with the descendants of the original owners of the vault.

The greatest interest was manifested by the people of the city of Savannah.

Several members of the committee were always present and a large concourse of citizens, and among those who attended to witness the investigations were the Hon. Thomas Manson Norwood, judge of the City Court and United States Senator in 1871-1877, who came several times, and the Hon. Robert Falligant, judge of the Superior Court, and the Hon. Pope Barrow and Captain Thomas Screven.

The committee was continuously assisted by Robert Tyler Waller, Esq., who is a grandson of ex-President John Tyler, and who married Major-General Greene's great-granddaughter. He resides in Savannah, and represented the junior branch of the Greene family.

By reason of being a member of the Greene family, although not descended from General Greene, I represented, at their request, the elder branch of his descendants resident in Rhode Island.

Otis Ashmore, Esq., superintendent of schools, and Edward J. Kelly, Esq., of Savannah, also continuously assisted.

The committee's intention was first given to examination of the many vaults, including the McLeod



EDWARD FIELD,

Secretary Committee Rhode Island General Assembly.



vault and others, where tradition said the remains had been deposited. Many of these were found to be in very bad condition, for want of proper repairs; but the most careful scrutiny was made in a reverent and proper manner, and records kept of the coffin-plates which were found, to the gratification of many people in Savannah, who, in the absence of distinguishing marks to those vaults—owing to the vandalism as before referred—did not know, with certainty, where the remains of certain members of their families had been deposited. Every vault was immediately re-closed, on conclusion of examination, with cemented brick before opening another.

The labor was performed through the Park and Tree Commission, under the immediate charge of Mr. William H. Robertson, chief clerk and deputy to that commission; and the trusted employees of that commission were employed in the important work of examining the remains in the vault *under the immediate personal supervision of the committee.*

Finally, after all the vaults where tradition, or statements more or less positive by citizens, averred that the remains were deposited had been critically and carefully examined, there remained but one still to be examined, namely, the "Jones" vault. This had been erected by the Hon. Noble Wimberly Jones, who died in Savannah, Georgia, January 9th, 1805. He had been Speaker in Georgia of both the Colonial and State Legislatures, Delegate to the Continental Congress in 1775 and 1781-1783, and had been made a prisoner of war at the capitulation

of Charleston, S. C., May 12th, 1780, and was a tried patriot and friend of Major-General Greene.

It is proper here to remark that the entire story as to removal of the remains to Cumberland Island, Georgia, narrated by one A. B. Goodwin of Savannah, as hearsay upon hearsay, told him in 1886 in a tavern in St. Mary's, Georgia, was disproved, not only by the improbable character of many of the alleged particulars, which frequently varied in the telling by said Goodwin, but also by the positive statements of Mr. Robert Tyler Waller and other members and connections of the Greene family, including the late Hon. Nathanael Greene, as well as others who had visited that island, and by the declaration, equally positive, of D. G. Purse, Esq., of Savannah, who, for a number of years, was trustee for that estate and resided there, the committee also having a complete record of all the recorded deaths at Cumberland Island, including that of General Henry Lee (Light Horse Harry) in 1818.

On Monday morning, March 4th instant, the vault, which was perfectly well known as the "Jones" vault, was opened.

The late George Wimberly Jones de Renne, Esq., senior representative of the Jones family, and Vice-President of the Georgia Historical Society, many years ago opened that vault and found and identified the remains of all the members of the Jones family deposited there, and thereupon removed them *all* to Bonaventure cemetery, near Savannah, and closed up the vault. He afterward told the Hon. William Harden, of the committee, and others, precisely what he



had done, as herein narrated. That he was able to identify the remains of the several members of the Jones family was due to the fact that this vault is drier and more sandy in its soil than the others which the committee examined. In the centre of the vault the committee found probably a cart load of broken brick, which were first removed before further inquiry.

An opening through the rear brick wall was also made, to permit admission of light and air.

Upon examination, there was found on one side of the vault, in a remarkable state of preservation, a casket containing the remains of Mr. Robert Scott, who died on June 5th, 1845, fifty-six years ago, at the age of seventy. The silver plate to his coffin was hardly discolored.

On the other side of the vault nearest the wall were noticed the rotting fragments of a coffin. Upon these being removed there appeared a man's skeleton quite intact, except some of the smaller ribs, which clearly showed that this body had never been disturbed.

The two experienced workmen employed inside of the vault were Charles C. Gattman and Edward W. Keenan.

As the fragments of the coffin were removed from the remains, they both exclaimed as to the remarkably prominent configuration of the skull. Mr. Kelly, who was watching the proceeding through the opening, at once noticed the same fact and called the attention of myself and other members of the committee

present to this circumstance. The workmen then removed the remaining fragments of the coffin and looked for the plate, which was found, where it should be, among the bones of the breast.

As Mr. Gattman passed this plate up through the opening he examined it in the bright sunlight, and remarked that he noticed the date "1786," he not knowing that this was the date of General Greene's decease.

The plate is silver gilt which is quite distinguishable upon the reverse side. Upon the face are not only the figures "1786," but also, upon careful inspection, members of the committee and Messrs. Waler and Kelly discovered the letters "reene," the final termination of the word "Greene," in proper position; and Mr. W. G. Charlton was able, after some care, to discern the letters, just preceding these, of "ael," of the word "Nathanael."

This plate, at the desire of the committee, will be taken to General L. P. di Cesnola, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the city of New York, to ascertain whether it can be restored by any scientific process.

Some of the bones crumbled on being handled, but the larger bones and skull and jaw bones were all preserved. They were carefully placed in a box.

Search was then made for metal buttons. Three were discovered, badly corroded, upon one of which, however, could be traced the form of an eagle, which was the distinguishing mark upon the buttons of a



CHARLES H. HOWLAND,  
Executive Secretary.



Major-General of the Continental Army of the Revolution.

An article of mine, in the *Magazine of American History* for 1883, on this subject describes the uniform buttons of general officers of the War of the Revolution.

In no other vault, and in no other examination of the remains of the many examined, were there other than wooden buttons found, which had originally been covered with silk, cloth, or velvet.

All the mould of Major-General Greene's remains was carefully collected and put in a box, which was then nailed up.

Another peculiarly significant fact, which cannot be overlooked, was the discovery of fragments of heavy white silk gloves, much discolored, and containing bones of the fingers.

These gloves were such as general officers in the French army would have worn, and were, doubtless, a present from the Marquis de Lafayette to Major-General Greene in 1784-5.

The Marquis was accustomed to make presents to his brother officers in the Revolutionary army, and every time he returned to the United States he brought a great many gifts of a military character. Among other things he gave Major-General Greene a number of silver camp mugs, or cups, such as were used by Marshals of France. These are preserved in the family of the late Prof. George Washington Greene, in Rhode Island.

His very deep attachment for Major-General Greene is well authenticated.

The Rhode Island Cincinnati entertained him at Newport in October, 1784, on his first arrival after the Revolution, and he saw General Greene while then in the United States.

When he came again, in 1824, he gave to General Greene's second daughter, Mrs. Louisa Shaw, a steel-plate engraving of her father, with this inscription in Lafayette's well-known handwriting, viz :

“ To dear Mrs. Shaw

“ From her father's most intimate friend and companion in arms—

“LA FAYETTE.”

This is now in the possession of Mrs. Robert Tyler Waller, great-granddaughter of General Greene, 320 Huntington street, East, Savannah, Georgia.

The workmen reported another body alongside, with fragments of a coffin. Upon these fragments being removed, Mr. Gattman, who has had much experience in that business, remarked that they were the remains of a male person, probably eighteen or nineteen years of age, he not knowing that Major-General Greene's son, George Washington Greene, had been drowned in the Savannah river, off “ Mulberry Grove,” on March 28th, 1793, and his remains interred alongside his father's.

Most of these bones crumbled upon being handled. They were, however, carefully collected with all the mould, and put in another box, which was nailed up.

The coffin-plate was too badly corroded to enable anything to be deciphered upon it.

The boxes were removed to the police barracks near by and placed under the care of the captain of the police over night, and the vault re-bricked and cemented. These proceedings were all witnessed by a considerable concourse of people.

On the following day suitable boxes were procured, zinc-lined, and taken to the police barracks, and Mr. Keenan, who had assisted in the vault, in a room put at the service of the committee, and in the presence of the lieutenant of the police and other policemen, and the members of the committee and the press, and Mr. W. T. Dixon, undertaker, of 15 Perry street, East, and his assistants, carefully removed the remains of Major-General Greene to the zinc-lined box prepared for the purpose. In doing so Mr. Otis Ashmore, assisted by Mr. Edward J. Kelly, made measurements of the skull which corresponded to the details in Sully's original portrait of Major-General Nathanael Greene, and to the statements made by the late Hon. Nathanael Greene and other members of the Greene family.

In the Life of Major-General Nathanael Greene, by his grandson, the late Prof. George Washington Greene, there will be found, as a frontispiece (Volume 1), a portrait of General Greene, the skull of which exactly corresponds to the one found.

My lamented friend, the late Colonel John Screven, of Savannah, President of the Georgia Sons of the Revolution, had proposed to make this investigation,

and repeatedly declared that General Greene's remains would be recognized by his skull. It was of the same distinctive character as the skull of Napoleon Bonaparte, Humboldt, Cuvier, and Daniel Webster.

The teeth, both upper and lower, were remarkably well preserved, in a jaw which showed great determination and firmness of character, and clearly indicated the age to be about forty-four or forty-five years. After the remains of Major-General Greene had all been deposited in the zinc-lined box, the zinc cover was placed upon the box and soldered in its place; the wooden cover was then screwed down, handles put to the ends of the box, and a coffin-plate affixed bearing the inscription :

"MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE,

"BORN AUGUST 7TH, 1742,

"DIED JUNE 19TH, 1786."

In like manner the remains of George Washington Greene were transferred to the other zinc-lined box, which was closed in like manner, the coffin-plate containing the inscription :

"GEORGE W. GREENE,

"SON OF MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE."

The remains were then taken by Mr. Dixon, the undertaker, in his wagon, accompanied by members of the committee and the press, to the Southern Bank of the State of Georgia, which is a depository of the State in Savannah. Here they were received by





GEORGE WASHINGTON GREENE CARPENTER.



Horace A. Crane, Esq., Vice-President, and James Sullivan, Esq., cashier, and taken in the presence of these gentlemen and of the committee and deposited in the safe deposit vault of the bank, where they remain, subject to the order of the undersigned and Alfred Dearing Harden, Esq., of the committee, as trustees.

After the remains had been discovered and disposed of on Monday, March 4th, the committee met in final session at the residence of the Hon. George Anderson Mercer, and immediately afterward, at a numerously attended meeting of the Historical Society of Georgia, in their society hall, he, as president of that society, announced, on behalf of the committee, the discovery of the remains.

But one circumstance needs yet to be brought to your attention, and that is the authentic evidence on this subject which satisfied the committee, from the outset, that the proper place to inquire was the "Jones" vault.

In 1821 William Johnson copyrighted his life of Major-General Nathanael Greene, a work to which he had given special care and attention. In its preparation he had visited all the scenes of General Greene's military operations and interviewed many who had been participants with him in the War of the Revolution. In this life Johnson says that the funeral ceremony of the Church of England (Episcopal) was read over the corpse by the Hon. William Stephens, as there was not at that time a minister of the gospel in the city.

In a foot-note (Volume 2, page 120, original edition), Johnson adds that "Judge Stephens, who performed the funeral services, has repeatedly told the author that the body of General Greene lay in the tomb of Jones, and *that the tomb has not yet been searched.*"

Judge Stephens was then judge of the Superior Court of Georgia, and afterward United States District Judge for the State of Georgia, until his decease, August 6th, 1819. He had been the first Attorney General of the State and Colonel of the Chatham County Militia, and Grand Master of the Masons of the State, and was a close friend of General Greene.

As the late George W. Jones de Renne, when removing the remains of the Jones family to Bonaventure, was able to identify them all, there was no occasion to notice particularly other remains there deposited; and in the dimness of that vault, even had the little coffin-plate of Major-General Greene been searched for and found among the remains, which evidently had not been the case from the position of the remains, nothing could have been discovered upon inspecting the plate without taking it to the sunlight.

Several indications pointed to the fact that this particular vault had not been disturbed in the manner others were in 1865.

In conclusion, the committee are indeed happy that their labors have resulted so successfully, and they have no doubt that all lovers of our country will rejoice with them.

I have been particular in these details, some of

which may appear inconsequential, because in a matter of history they are necessary.

Had the *Georgia Gazette* of 1786 mentioned the particular vault where General Greene's remains had been deposited, there would then never have been any doubt upon the subject.

When the word was received in New York city of General Greene's untimely decease, the Revolutionary officers who composed the Society of Cincinnati in that State assembled, with members of the Continental Congress and public officials and functionaries of the State of New York, in St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway, to listen to the masterful oration by Alexander Hamilton upon the life and services of Major-General Greene. In the course of his address, Hamilton said :

"It required a longer life and still greater opportunities, to have enabled him to exhibit in full day, his vast, I had almost said the *enormous* powers of his mind."

This oration was one of the greatest ever delivered in this country, and can still be read and studied with profit by the military student.

The Continental Congress, on August 8th, 1786, decreed a monument to General Greene's memory.

When my honored friend, the late senior Senator from Rhode Island, Hon. Henry B. Anthony, on behalf of the State, in an address to the United States Senate, presented on January 20th, 1870, the life-size statue of General Greene for the old hall of the House of Representatives, he remarked that Greene

"stands in the judgment of his contemporaries, and by the assent of history, second only to the man who towers without a peer in the annals of America."

All the expenses of the investigation just concluded were defrayed by the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati from the interest on its permanent fund, to which Major-General Greene contributed his month's pay in 1783.

The final disposition of his remains has not as yet been discussed.

General Greene was fifth in descent from Surgeon John Greene, who came to Providence Plantations with Roger Williams.

He was a native of Rhode Island and always credited on its Continental quota during the Revolutionary War, and has always been claimed by the State as a citizen of Rhode Island. Upon his last trip South he retained his residence in Newport, from which he sailed October 14th, 1785.

At the last annual meeting of the Rhode Island Cincinnati before his decease, which was held in Newport, he officiated as President.

In any final determination as to where his remains shall be deposited, his descendants and the State of Georgia, as well as Rhode Island, should all be consulted.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ASA BIRD GARDINER,

*President Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati,*

*Chairman Committee.*



GEORGE CORLIS NIGHTINGALE.





IN SENATE, March 20, 1901.

Read and ordered to be communicated to House of Representatives.

DAVID J. WHITE, *Clerk.*

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 3/20/01.

Ordered laid on the table temporarily.

THOMAS Z. LEE, *Clerk.*

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 21, 1901.

Referred to Committee on Education.

THOMAS Z. LEE, *Clerk.*

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 25, 1902.

The Committee on Education ask to be relieved from the further consideration of the within correspondence, and that the same be referred to the joint committee on the burial remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 25, 1902.

Referred to committee on remains of Nathanael Greene.

THOMAS Z. LEE, *Clerk.*

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## Exhibit B.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &C.,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

PROVIDENCE, February, 11, 1902.

*To the Honorable the General Assembly :*

I have the honor to communicate the accompanying correspondence for your consideration.

CHARLES DEAN KIMBALL,  
*Governor.*

[5 Enclosures.]

*(From letter to Charles P. Bennett, Secretary of State,  
date of January 21, 1902.)*

Decision has now got to be made where the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, and his son, now deposited in the vault of the State Bank in Savannah, shall be finally deposited.

Many of the Southern descendants desire to place them under the monument in Savannah.

As Greene was actually a native and citizen of Rhode Island, the State would have a claim to have them put under the new monument in Providence.

Please bring the matter informally to the Governor's attention.

The proper person to correspond with in this behalf is Robert Tyler Waller, Esq., of Savannah, grandson

of President John Tyler of Virginia. He married General Greene's great-granddaughter, and they reside in Savannah.

Very truly yours,

ASA BIRD GARDINER.

[Enclosure 1.]

(COPY.)

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND, &C.,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

PROVIDENCE, February 3, 1902.

HON. ASA BIRD GARDINER,

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

MY DEAR MAJOR GARDINER:—Our Secretary of State, Mr. Bennett, has called my attention to your communication with relation to the disposition of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene. I am of the opinion that if the matter were brought to their attention, our people would feel that the remains ought finally to rest in General Greene's native State.

I find in the newspapers a report from Savannah that seems to dispose of the whole matter. I am not advised that this is necessarily authentic, and will thank you for any information on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES DEAN KIMBALL,

*Governor.*

[Enclosure 2.]

SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI  
IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

135 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, February 6th, 1902.

HON. CHARLES D. KIMBALL,  
*Governor of Rhode Island.*

SIR:—The question is now being discussed, in Savannah, Ga., as to where the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene and of his eldest son, George Washington Greene, now temporarily deposited in that city, in the Southern Bank of the State of Georgia, shall be finally placed.

As to this matter, the Society of the Cincinnati of Rhode Island beg leave, respectfully, to say that whatever arrangements may be decided upon by the descendants of Major-General Greene and the executive of Rhode Island will be satisfactory to the society.

Some of his descendants reside in Rhode Island, and others are scattered throughout the South.

His family were identified, from Roger Williams's settlement of Providence, with Rhode Island, where he was born.

In the Revolutionary War he was credited in its quota to the Continental Army from Rhode Island, and from 1783 until his decease he was a citizen of the State and President of its Society of the Cincinnati.



HALL CLOCK FORMERLY OWNED BY GEN. GREENE.  
From a photograph of the original in the Rhode Island  
Historical Society, Providence, R. I.



One suggestion has been made, that his remains be deposited under the monument erected in his memory in Savannah.

Another, that they be placed under the monument about to be erected at the capitol in Providence.

A third, that they be put under the monument about to be erected on the battlefield at Guilford Court House.

Probably most of the descendants, other than those in Rhode Island, would prefer that the remains be deposited in Savannah.

If, however, you have any request to prefer in this behalf, I am persuaded it would not only receive the most respectful consideration from Major-General Greene's descendants, but would probably have the controlling influence.

The object, therefore, of this communication is to respectfully suggest that you indicate your wishes in this behalf by communicating with Mr. Robert Tyler Waller, of Savannah, Georgia, a grandson of former President John Tyler, who married Major-General Greene's great-granddaughter, and is more immediately charged with obtaining the sentiments of the family and acting upon them.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ASA BIRD GARDNER,

*President,*

*Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati.*

ASA BIRD GARDINER,  
135-7 BROADWAY, CORNER CEDAR STREET,  
NEW YORK.

February 6, 1902.

MY DEAR GOVERNOR KIMBALL:—Since dictating the enclosed communication I have received your favor of the 3rd instant upon the same subject.

The newspaper story which you kindly transmitted is without authorship.

The remains cannot be removed from the bank vault without my signature and that of Mr. Alfred D. Harden of the committee.

I am in receipt of a note on the same subject from Miss Mary Ward Greene, of Melville P. O., Newport, R. I., daughter of the late Professor George Washington Greene, and niece and heir of the late venerable and Honorable Nathanael Greene, M. D., LL. D., late President Rhode Island Cincinnati.

If you will write to Mr. Robert Tyler Waller, of Savannah, expressing your views on this interesting subject, he will communicate with the family. The Greene family in Rhode Island wish the remains finally interred there.

Very truly yours,

ASA BIRD GARDINER,

*President,*

*Rhode Island Cincinnati.*

HON. C. D. KIMBALL.

[Enclosure 4.]



GREENESDALE, R. I., Feb. 6th, 1902.

HIS EXCELLENCY, GOVERNOR KIMBALL,  
*Providence, Rhode Island.*

DEAR SIR :—Mr. Asa Bird Gardiner has requested me to write you stating that should Rhode Island desire that the remains of General Nathanael Greene be buried within its bounds, I, one the lineal descendants of the General, great-granddaughter, should prefer such a disposition to be made to having them left in the South.

I have rather hesitated about writing, as my near relationship to General Greene makes me feel it such a personal matter that I should be unwilling to have myself brought forward as proposing anything of the sort, while I cannot but feel that Rhode Island will be only doing an act of justice to one of her noblest sons and doing herself an honor, in thus honoring one of whom she is justly proud.

Very respectfully,

(Miss) MARY WARD GREENE.

*Melville Postal Station, Newport, R. I.*

[Enclosure 5.]

CORRESPONDENCE *in re* REMAINS OF GENERAL NATHANAEL  
GREENE :

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IN SENATE, Feb. 11, 1902.

Read and ordered to be communicated to House of Representatives.

DAVID J. WHITE, *Clerk*.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 13, 1902.

Read and ordered to be referred to the committee provided for in a joint resolution entitled "Resolution enacting a joint special committee to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene within the State."

The Speaker appoints on said committee on the part of the House, Messrs. Frank T. Easton, J. Stacy Brown, and Harry H. Shepard.

THOMAS Z. LEE, *Clerk*.



NORTH SIDE OF GREENE MONUMENT.

Johnson Square, Savannah, Ga.



## Exhibit C.

SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

IN THE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND,

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

PROVIDENCE, April 8, 1902.

Respectfully referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Nathanael Greene's Remains, for His Excellency Governor Kimball.

CHARLES H. HOWLAND, *Executive Secretary*.

NEW YORK, April 5, 1902.

*To the Honorable, the Governor and General Assembly  
of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Planta-  
tions:*

The memorial of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations respectfully represents that this society was instituted by the officers of the Rhode Island Continental line of the Revolution while in service at Saratoga Barracks (Schuylerville), on the Hudson river, June 24th, 1783, and at their first meeting in Rhode Island in the Senate chamber of the State House, Providence, upon their arrival home, Major-General Nathanael Greene was elected, December 17, 1783, President of the society and presided at the meeting and

continued to be re-elected President at every annual meeting thereafter up to and including that of July 4th, 1785, at which he presided for the last time over the society's deliberations in the Senate chamber of the State House, Newport, prior to setting sail for Savannah, Georgia.

That subsequently, while still President of this society, Major-General Greene died at his plantation of Mulberry Grove, near Savannah, Georgia, on June 19, 1786, and his remains were subsequently entombed in one of the Colonial vaults in the Colonial cemetery of Savannah, with suitable military and civic ceremonies.

No tablet having been placed upon the vault, in course of years, and with the early decease, from the vicissitudes of climate or Revolutionary service, of those who had been present at his obsequies, record was lost for a hundred and fourteen years of the actual place of burial.

That in 1818 public-spirited citizens of Savannah, Georgia, began to collect subscriptions for a monument to this great man, and eventually an obelisk was erected in Jackson square, Savannah, which was the first monument to his memory erected in the United States, and is a fitting tribute to one of Rhode Island's greatest citizens.

Your memorialists further respectfully represent that last year, the society having ascertained that no thorough and systematic search had ever been made for General Greene's remains, and that the subject was being discussed in the Savannah press, determined that it was their duty, on behalf of the people

of Rhode Island, and in deference to the wishes of their late Venerable President, the Honorable Nathanael Greene, M. D., LL. D., that a proper inquiry should be made which should be so thorough as to leave no further doubt.

Thereupon, your memorialists appointed a committee, consisting of citizens among the most eminent in the city of Savannah, Georgia, together with the President of the society as chairman, to make the proper investigations.

The eminent citizens constituting this committee were as follows :

HON. GEORGE ANDERSON MERCER, A. M.,  
*President, Georgia Historical Society.*

HON. WALTER G. CHARLTON, A. M.,  
*President, Georgia Society Sons of the Revolution.*

HON. PHILIP D. DAFFIN,  
*President, Park and Tree Commission of Savannah, Ga.*

HON. WILLIAM HARDEN, A. M.,  
*Secretary, Georgia Society Sons of the Revolution.*

MR. ALFRED DEARING HARDEN, A. B., LL. B.  
*Member, South Carolina State Society of the Cincinnati.*

The necessary investigation was carefully conducted, a report of which has already been submitted to you. This involved certain necessary expenditures.

Under the institution of the Society of the Cincinnati, subscribed on May 10th, 1783, by General Washington and by Major-Generals Nathanael

Greene, Benjamin Lincoln, Henry Knox, LaFayette, Baron de Steuben, William Moultrie, Francis Marion, Thomas Mifflin, Horatio Gates, John Sullivan, William Smallwood, and the other great historic characters of the War of the Revolution, a permanent fund was created in every State society by the contribution of one month's pay of the Continental officer, only the interest upon which could be appropriated to the beneficial objects of the society.

In the Rhode Island State society, consequently, the fund thus arising is used for the purpose of aiding the descendants of Rhode Island Continental officers who may be in indigent circumstances.

In several of the State societies this fund is large, and these little pensions to old ladies and dependent children have been of incalculable benefit.

In Rhode Island, from fortuitous circumstances in past years, the fund is but small ; but among its beneficiaries is a venerable octogenarian minister of the gospel whose grandfather, a graduate of Brown University, was a Rhode Island Continental officer and an original member of the society.

It was this fund which was drawn upon for the necessary disbursements in making the above-mentioned inquiry.

In the incorporation of this society by the Rhode Island General Assembly, on February 28th, 1814, for beneficial objects, the institution of 1783 was recognized.

Since the discovery of Major-General Greene's remains, and their temporary deposit in the vault of the



Southern Bank of Georgia, your memorialists have done nothing toward final interment, in order that you might have the opportunity of expressing your wishes in this behalf.

The time has now come, in the opinion of your memorialists, when final action should be taken; and it is respectfully proposed, with your concurrence, that Major-General Greene's remains shall be placed under the monument in Jackson Square, Savannah, Georgia.

His descendants have been communicated with, and a considerable majority of them express a desire that this proposed action should be taken.

Your memorialists propose that the highly respectable committee which had charge of the inquiry on behalf of this State society, and which has the confidence of the people of the State of Georgia, shall take charge of the arrangements necessary for final interment, inviting the co-operation of the State and municipal authorities and of the several patriotic associations. And your memorialists desire that said committee shall represent, not only this State society in this patriotic duty, but also the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

If it were possible for a committee of the General Assembly also to attend, your memorialists are persuaded that it would be appreciated most highly by the people of Georgia, and they could unite with the above-named committee as constituting the actual Committee of Arrangements.

In this behalf your memorialists respectfully solicit

that such reasonable appropriation be made by the General Assembly as will re-imburse the society for the necessary disbursements already incurred, to be restored to the beneficial purposes for which originally intended, and for such further necessary disbursements as may be incurred by the above-named committee in the final interment of Major-General Greene's remains under the monument in Jackson Square. These expenses to be regulated, as heretofore, by the strictest economy, but commensurate with what is due the occasion.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

ASA BIRD GARDINER,  
*President.*

GEORGE W. OLNEY,  
*Secretary.*

[INCLOSURE COPY]

SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI

IN THE

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS,  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

NEW YORK, April 7th, 1902.

HON. GEORGE ANDERSON MERCER,

HON. WALTER G. CHARLTON,

HON. PHILIP D. DAFFIN,

HON. WILLIAM HARDEN,

MR. ALFRED DEARING HARDEN,

*Of the committee to ascertain the location of the remains  
of Major-General Nathanael Greene.*

GENTLEMEN:—Last year the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence

Plantations was honored by your acceptance of its request to act, with its President, as a committee to ascertain the location, in Savannah, of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, its President from 1783 until his decease in 1786.

The successful manner in which you performed this patriotic duty merited, and received, the grateful thanks, not only of the society, but of the patriotic people of Rhode Island and Georgia and of the United States in general.

Since then, as a matter of punctilious courtesy, the society has delayed action as to final disposition of the remains, in order that the Governor and General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island might, when it met, have the opportunity of expressing its sentiments upon the subject, for the reason that Major-General Nathanael Greene was a native of the State, where his ancestor had assisted Roger Williams in the foundation of the colony, and where he had always been credited on its quota in the War of the Revolution, and where he had for several years been a member of its General Assembly.

The President of the society, in his report on this interesting subject, at the meeting held pursuant to law in the Senate chamber, State House, Newport, July 4th, 1901, concluded as follows:

"In any final determination, the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati proposes to make no suggestion, but to leave the subject wholly with Major-General Greene's direct descendants, after due consultation, as seems most suitable, with the Gover-

nors of the States of Rhode Island and Georgia, respectively."

This conclusion was unanimously approved by the society.

The descendants of Major-General Greene have since been communicated with, through the courtesy of Robert Tyler Waller, Esqr., who rendered such valuable service to your committee, and a large majority have expressed their desire that the remains of Major-General Greene shall be finally deposited under the beautiful obelisk erected to his memory, in Jackson Square, by patriotic citizens of Savannah.

The Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati has, heretofore, sedulously refrained from expressing any opinion in this behalf; but the time has now come when it may appropriately do so, and the sentiment is that the appropriate place for final interment is under the monument in Jackson Square.

The General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations adjourned yesterday.

The object, therefore, of this communication is to request, by direction of the society, the particular favor that you conclude your valued labors as the committee in charge of the remains of Major-General Greene by making all necessary arrangements for their proper interment under the monument in Jackson Square, and that to this end you invite the co-operation of the Governor and Legislature of the State of Georgia, as far as may be practicable, and the particular assistance of the municipal authorities of the city





BIRTHPLACE OF GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE, POTOWOMUT, WARWICK, R. I.

From a photograph made in 1902.

of Savannah, and the Society of Cincinnati in the State of South Carolina, and active co-operation of all patriotic associations in Savannah and vicinity, not forgetting, in this connection, the old Chatham Artillery.

In the local details of these arrangements and requests for co-operation or invitations preliminary to the ceremonies, the President of the society, by reason of distance from Savannah, finds himself, with deep regret, unable actively to participate; and the society, therefore, respectfully requests Colonel Mercer to act as vice-chairman in this behalf.

The society invokes the earnest support and aid of the citizens of Georgia to your committee, to render the final obsequies of Major-General Greene proportionately as imposing and appreciative at this day as they were in 1786.

The society further respectfully suggests that all descendants of Major-General Greene be especially invited to attend, and that Mr. Robert Tyler Waller's valued assistance be invoked as far as possible.

By order of the society,

ASA BIRD GARDINER,

*President.*

GEORGE W. OLNEY,

*Secretary.*









NATHANAEL GREENE.

"This portrait of Nathanael Greene, a Major-General in the American Revolution, was originally the property of his family. On his removal to Georgia it was left in possession of his niece Mary Greene (who was married to Benjamin Sumner, Merchant, Boston), daughter of Judge Jacob Greene, of Coventry, R. I. At her decease the picture fell into possession of her daughter Margaret Greene Sumner (who married Geo. B. Proctor, of Boston), and was by her given to her son, Benjamin S. Proctor, the present owner, Jan. 1, 1852."

This picture, done in pastel, is now in the Sayles Memorial Hall Gallery, Brown University, Providence, R. I., and has the above inscription pasted on the back.

In an article in the *Providence Daily Journal*, December 17, 1870, relating to the various portraits of General Greene, the following reference to this portrait is made: "The earliest portrait of Greene has no claim to attention as a work of art. It is neither well drawn nor well painted, and conveys no idea of the countenance that we find on the canvas of Trumbull and Peale. The name of the painter is not known, and it might safely be passed over in silence were it not that it was a gift from General Greene to a favorite niece in whose family it has been carefully preserved."

# Major-General Nathanael Greene:

HIS BIRTH, DEATH, AND BURIAL  
AND THE DISCOVERY AND  
RE-INTERMENT OF HIS REMAINS.

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF THE JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, APPOINTED TO TAKE INTO CON-  
SIDERATION THE RE-INTERMENT OF THE REMAINS OF GENERAL  
NATHANAEL GREENE.

BY

EDWARD FIELD,

*Secretary of the Committee.*



## Prefatory Note.

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In March, 1902, I was directed by the Joint Special Committee of the General Assembly, appointed to take into consideration the permanent location of the remains of General Nathanael Greene, to proceed to the city of Savannah, Ga., for the purpose of inquiring into the facts connected with their discovery.

In accordance with these directions I visited that city, made such inquiry as to the discovery and authenticity of the remains as I believed necessary for the purpose, and upon returning reported to the committee that the remains found by the committee of the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati were without doubt those of that distinguished Rhode Islander and officer of the Revolution. Subsequently I was directed to prepare for the use of the committee such an account of Nathanael Greene as would be pertinent to the matter with which this committee of the General Assembly was charged. In the following pages I have endeavored to correct the errors which writers on this subject have made relative to the date of birth of General Greene ; to relate the circumstances of his sickness, death, and burial ; to show the attempts made at different times to discover the place of burial of his remains ; to explain the details of their discovery and the means by which these

remains were identified: to this is added a full account of the proceedings attending their re-interment at Savannah, on November 14, 1902.

In the preparation of this work, I have been assisted by many persons within and without this State. To all such persons I wish to express my profound thanks for their many courtesies and generous assistance.

I am particularly under obligations to Alfred Dear-  
ing Harden, Esq., and to Mr. Robert Tyler Waller,  
both of Savannah, Georgia, for many kindnesses  
while in that city and during the time in which  
I have been engaged in this work. I also desire to  
express my appreciation of the great assistance  
afforded me by Mrs. Edward Karow, Regent of Sa-  
vannah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolu-  
tion; Hon. Herman Meyers, Mayor; Hon. William  
Harden, Librarian of the Georgia Historical Society;  
Mr. Otis Ashmore, Superintendent of Public Schools;  
Maj. Philip D. Daffin, Chairman of the Park and  
Tree Commission; Mr. William H. Robertson, chief  
clerk of that commission, all of Savannah, and to  
Col. Asa Bird Gardiner of New York. My thanks  
are due and are here extended to His Excellency  
Charles Dean Kimball, Governor, and to the mem-  
bers of the Joint Special Committee having this  
matter in charge, for their generous support and co-  
operation in the work devolving upon me as secre-  
tary of this committee.

EDWARD FIELD.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., January, 1903.

## Major-General Nathanael Greene.

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Nathanael Greene, son of Nathanael and Mary (Mott) Greene, was born in the town of Warwick, Rhode Island, in the district known as Potowomut Neck, "on the twenty-seventh day of the fifth month, 1742, about one or two o'clock in the afternoon of the third day of the week," which, according to the method employed in reckoning time at this date, would correspond to August 7, 1742.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Concerning the exact date of the birth of Gen. Nathanael Greene of Revolutionary fame, there are certain discrepancies in the various reference books upon biography that deserve notice, and, if possible, correction. The date given by most of these authorities is May 27, 1742. Some give June 6, 1742, while one, at least (Savage), gives May 22, 1742. Other dates, which seem to be evident errors, are also noted."

"In view of the fact that there has been preserved 'a MS. Genealogy of the Greene Family, compiled by Gen. Greene, I am told by a member of the family, though the indorsement says by Gen. Greene's father;' (see *Life of Maj.-Gen. Greene*, by G. W. Greene, Vol. I, p. 4; note also p. 579) it would seem that this authority would at once set the matter at rest, but certain apparent inconsistencies in the dates given in the genealogy still leave the matter in doubt

On July 20, 1774, Nathanael Greene was united in marriage to Catherine Littlefield, daughter of John Littlefield, of the town of New Shoreham; the ceremony taking place at the

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until more light is thrown upon the subject. This authority, which we would naturally accept with the most confidence, says that Nathanael Greene 'was born the twenty-seventh day of the fifth month, 1742, about one or two o'clock in the afternoon of the third day of the week.' Gen. Greene's father, as is well known, was a Quaker preacher, and in this entry we recognize the well-known numerical nomenclature given by that religious sect to dates. Here we have the date of Gen. Greene's birth stated with apparently great exactness, viz., Tuesday, May 27, 1742, according to our mode of expression."

"The difficulty, however, is in the fact that May 27, 1742, did not fall on Tuesday, but on Thursday, if we reckon, as we doubtless should do, in the old style, the new style not being adopted in this country till 1752. If we reckon in accordance with the new style, May 27, 1742, fell on Sunday, which also does not agree with the record. Where, then, is the error? Is there a clerical or typographical error in this particular entry in the record? Let us examine this point.

"This same genealogy gives the dates of several of the births of Gen. Greene's brothers with the same exactness, and also the date of the death of Gen. Greene's mother. This last entry is given in new style, which is specially significant as indicating that the previous entries were very probably made in old style. This is all the more probable because the new style was not adopted in this country till 1752. The record is expressed in each case in the usual numerical custom noted above. . . .

"It is well known that the reformed calendar, known as







THE GREENE HOUSE, POTOWOMUT, WARWICK, R. I.

The birthplace of Gen. Nathanael Greene.

residence of Hon. William Greene, in the town of East Greenwich. This house is still standing, and is owned by Hon. William G. Roelker, a descendant of its former owner.<sup>2</sup>

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new style, was adopted in Great Britain and America on Jan. 1, 1752. Previous to that time the civil year began on the day of the Annunciation, or March 25. The historical year, however, began on Jan. 1. If now we assume that the entries made in the Greene manuscripts refer to March as the first month of the year, all apparent discrepancies are completely harmonized. There is indeed no straining of facts in this assumption, for at that time it was the general custom, both in this country and England, to begin the civil year with March 25 and to consider March the first month of the year."

"If the record had given the name of the month instead of its number, there would have been no room for being misled. When the record tells us that Nathanael Greene was born in 1742, on the 27th day of the fifth month, we naturally think that the fifth month was May, for that is the fifth month, reckoning January as the first month. But when we consider March as the first month, as was doubtless the custom at that time, the fifth month was July. So that the true date of Nathanael Greene's birth is July 27, 1742, instead of May 27, 1742, which is generally given in biographical works.

"This date, thus corrected, and transformed, is still in old style, and it harmonizes perfectly with the day of the week, given in the record; for July 27, 1742, occurred on Tuesday, which is the third day of the week."

"The fact that the assumption here made, that March was

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<sup>2</sup> State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations at the End of the Century, Field, Vol. 3, p. 612, where is an account of this historic house.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, in which he had borne so conspicuous a part, General Greene returned to Rhode Island, where he was most heartily welcomed.

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considered the first month of the year, harmonizes perfectly with all the other entries made in this record (except the last, which is expressly made in the new style), and that no other assumption will thus harmonize these dates, seems to be conclusive evidence in favor of the truth of this assumption. If this be true, and there seems to be no escaping from it, then the date commonly given for the birth of Gen. Nathanael Greene is in error by two months. July 27, 1742, old style, corresponds to Aug. 7, 1742, new style.

"An illustration of the relation between new style and old style is given in the birthday of Gen. Washington, which occurred, in old style, on Feb. 11. This corresponds to Feb. 22, new style, and this is the day we celebrate.

"The date June 6, 1742, given by one of the authorities for Gen. Greene's birth, was probably suggested by a note on page 5 of the 'Life of Maj.-Gen. Nathanael Greene, by G. W. Greene,' in which the author makes an error in transforming the date, May 27, O. S., to the corresponding date, N. S. June 7 would be the corresponding date instead of June 6, but it has been shown above that May 27 is incorrect; and hence the corresponding date, June 6 or 7, is also wrong.

"The error here pointed out is significant in interpreting and transforming into our present style of reckoning all dates recorded in the Quaker style of numerical reckoning in which the number of the month is given instead of the name of the month. The point is of special interest to those concerned in Quaker history, for without understanding it much confusion would result."

"It is a little curious, as it is fortunate, that the quaint

He arrived at Newport, November 25, 1783, and established himself at a house on Mill street, then owned by Colonel Archibald Crary, and later by Governor Gibbs, and now owned and occupied by Hon. F. P. Garrettson.<sup>1</sup>

He had served his country well for a long period of years, during which he had borne all the hardships of service in the field, and the end for which he had given up those years being attained, he retired to private life; and

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custom of the Quakers of mentioning the day of the week by number in their records affords a certain clew to the true dates of their records, whereas the omission of this seemingly insignificant point would often leave all in doubt." (From a paper read before the Georgia Historical Society by Mr. Otis Ashmore, and printed in the Savannah (Ga.) *Morning News*, April 4, 1899.)

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<sup>1</sup> "In 1783, Gen. Greene arrived at his residence, now that of Gibbs family, November 25th, and received public congratulations, and also congratulations from the General Assembly; in 1785, he sailed for Savannah with his family, October 14, intending to reside in Georgia." (Barbour's Chronology, 1824, in Newport Historical Society.)

Gen. Greene never owned this property, but rented it from Col. Crary, its owner. The property afterwards was owned by Governor Gibbs, who lived there many years and died there. Joseph Tuckerman, a wealthy Bostonian, subsequently purchased the property from the Gibbs heirs, and the house was remodeled about 1884; in 1900 the house was pur-

though often urged to accept high and honorable public office, he firmly, but politely, declined to do so. He had been deprived all these years of the companionship of his wife and family, and he felt that he was entitled to enjoy that privacy which his domestic nature craved. His most conspicuous service had been in the Southern department, including the States of North and South Carolina and Georgia; and on account of the successes achieved by his great genius as a military commander, the people of those States, to show their high sense of appreciation of his great service to them, made him munificent gifts. The General Assembly of North Carolina, on April 13, 1782, presented to him twenty-five thousand acres of land on the Duck river.<sup>1</sup>

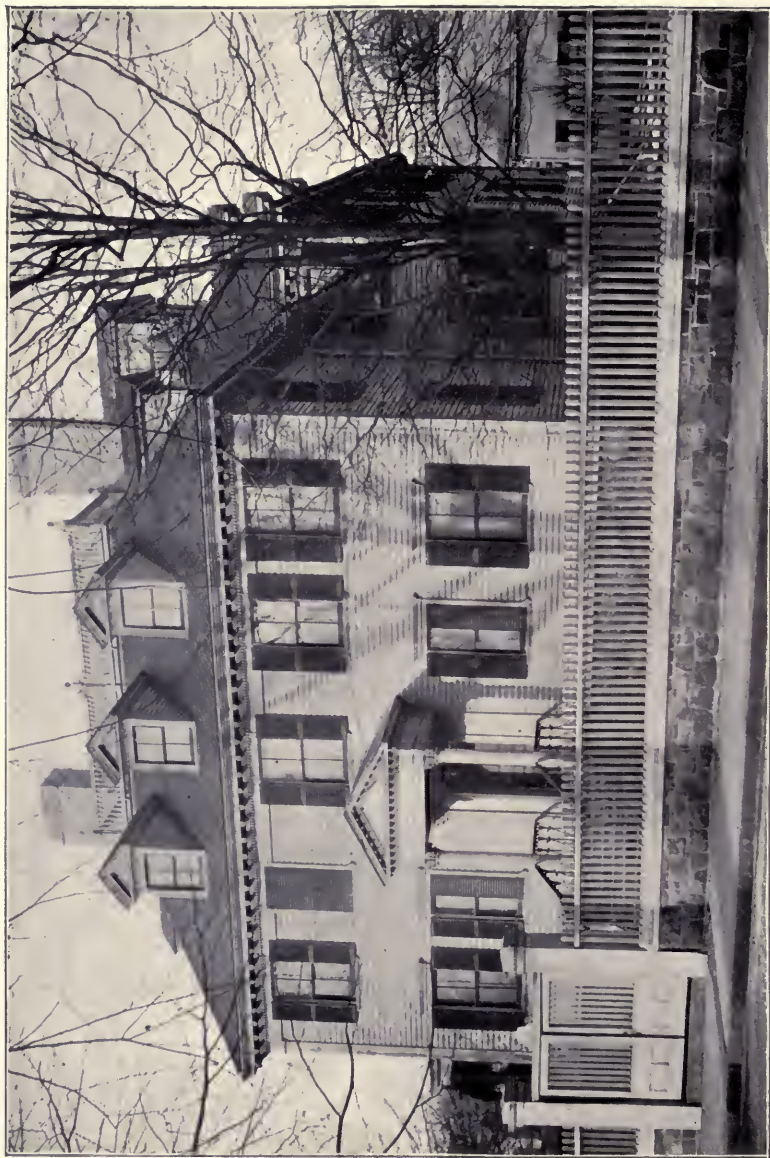
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chased by Hon. F. P. Garrettson, its present owner. Owing to the imperfect condition of the early records of Newport, it is impossible to trace the early ownership of the property, but tradition asserts that it was once owned by Judah Touro, a rich Portuguese merchant and a former resident of Newport. It is also stated that the house is modeled in some of its details after the famous Hancock house formerly standing in Boston. (From a letter of Hon. F. P. Garrettson to the author.)

<sup>1</sup> Appendix A.







THE GARRETTSON HOUSE, MILL STREET, NEWPORT, R. I.

Occupied by Gen. Greene during his residence in Newport in 1783.



The people of South Carolina presented him with an estate on the river Edisto valued at ten thousand pounds sterling,<sup>1</sup> while the State of Georgia, on January 18, 1783, gave to him a tract of land containing two thousand one hundred and seventy acres, known by the name of Mulberry Grove, on the Savannah river, formerly the plantation estate of John Graham, Lieutenant-Governor of Georgia, and which had been confiscated by that State.<sup>2</sup>

He remained at Newport until October 14, 1785, when he returned to Georgia and took up his residence at the Mulberry Grove plantation, fourteen miles from Savannah, on the south side of the Savannah river, it being the estate that had been presented to him by the State of Georgia. One of his biographers<sup>3</sup> says, regarding his life at Mulberry Grove: "His time was altogether devoted to the education of a charming family, the cultivation of his land, and the paternal care of his slaves. The intervals of his more serious em-

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<sup>1</sup> *Memoirs of the Life and Campaigns of the Hon. Nathaniel Greene*, by Charles Caldwell, M. D., Philadelphia, 1819, pp. 395-396.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix B.

<sup>3</sup> *Johnson's Life of Nathanael Greene*, Vol. 2, page 418.



GEN. GREENE'S GUN.—This gun is deposited in the Cabinet of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence. A brass plate on the stock has this inscription thereon: "This is the barrel of the Gun with which Gen. Greene first learned the manual exercise. He purchased it in Boston of a British deserter in 1774. The present stock and lock have been substituted in place of the originals which have been lost."

ployments were agreeably filled up by a select library and a spirited and endearing correspondence with his numerous friends, as well in Europe as America. His late arrangements had greatly narrowed down his plans in life, but he still had the prospect of competence, and gave himself up, without reserve, to the enjoyments of a social fireside and the interchange of civilities with his numerous and wealthy neighbors. It is obvious, from the correspondence of this date, that his spirits were raised; his residence was a delightful one, and he describes it with all the vivacity with which a Roman

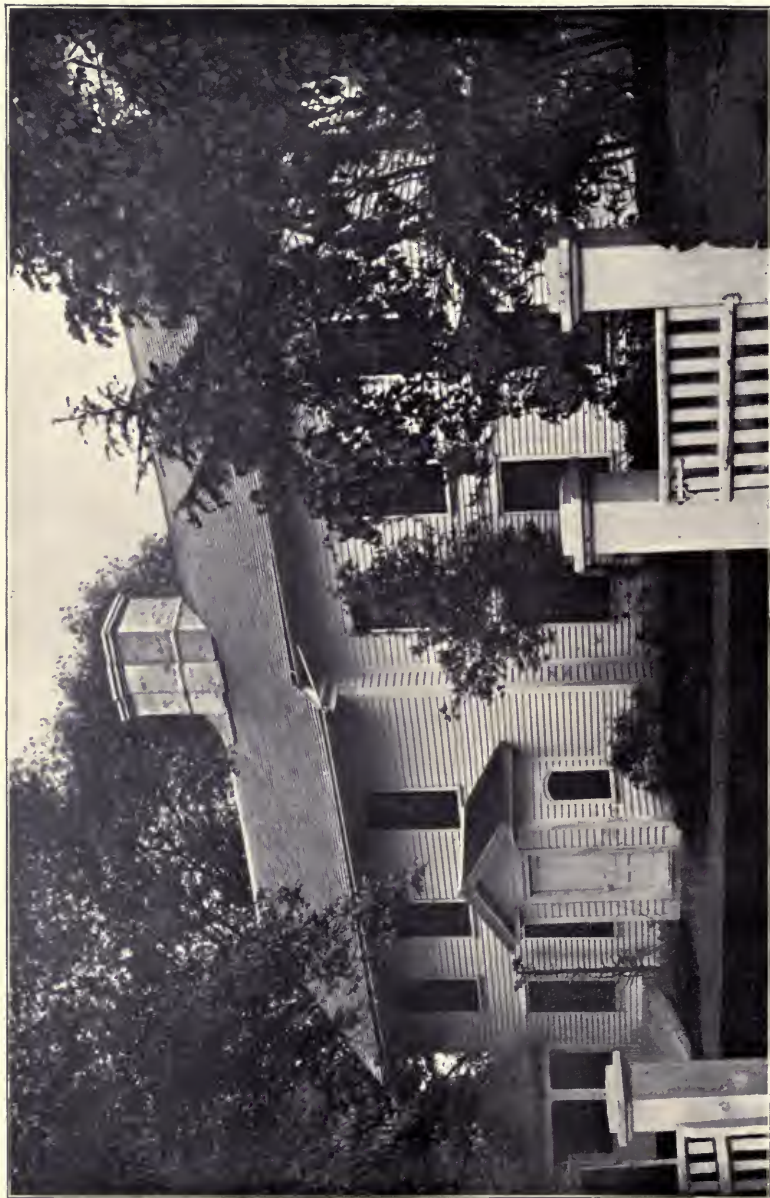
voluptuary would describe his villa. In November, soon after his arrival, he writes: 'We found the house, situation, and out-buildings, more convenient and pleasing than we expected. The prospect is delightful, and the house magnificent. We have a coach-house and stables, a large out-kitchen, and a poultry house nearly fifty-feet long, and twenty wide, parted for different kinds of poultry, with a pigeon-house on the top, which will contain not less than a thousand pigeons. Besides these, there are several other buildings convenient for a family, and among the rest, a fine smoke-house. The garden is in ruins, but there are still a variety of shrubs and flowers in it.' And again, in the month of April following: 'This is the busy time with us, and I can afford but a small portion of time to write. We are planting. We have got upwards of sixty acres of corn planted, and expect to plant one hundred and thirty of rice. The garden is delightful. The fruit-trees and flowering shrubs form a pleasing variety. We have green peas almost fit to eat, and as fine lettuce as ever you saw. The mocking birds surround us evening and morning. The weather is mild and the vegetable kingdom progressing to perfection.

But it is a great deduction from the pleasure we should feel from the beauties and conveniences of the place, that we are obliged to leave it before we shall have tasted of several kinds of fruit. We have in the same orchard apples, pears, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums of different kinds, figs, pomegranates, and oranges. And we have strawberries which measure three inches round. All these are clever, but the want of our friends to enjoy them with us, renders them less interesting.'

'It was the will of Heaven that his body should be laid in the tomb before the fruit then blossoming had attained to maturity.'"

On Monday, the 12th of June, 1786, General Greene's presence was required at Savannah. He made this journey accompanied by his wife, and visited the home of Major Nathaniel Pendleton, who had been one of his aids during the war, and with whom there existed a deep friendship; here they passed the night. The next morning they started early on their way home, for they intended to spend the day at the house of Mr. William Gibbons. They arrived at the Gibbons plantation early in the morning, and after breakfast the gentlemen walked into the rice-field together, to view the





WILLIAM GREENE HOUSE, EAST GREENWICH, R. I.

In this house Gen. Greene was married.



progress of Mr. Gibbons' crop, in which General Greene was much interested. The sun was intensely hot, but General Greene had been too long a soldier to fear any danger from the hot southern sun. On his way home in the evening he complained of a severe pain in the head; on Wednesday it still continued. On Thursday the pain increased greatly, particularly over the eyes; and the forehead appeared inflamed and swollen. Major Pendleton fortunately arrived on a visit; and an obvious depression of spirits and reluctance to join in conversation, which marked the conduct of the general, exciting his apprehensions, a Dr. Brickel was sent for. In the morning of Friday the physician arrived, took a little blood and administered some ordinary prescriptions; but the inflammation obviously increasing, another physician, a Dr. M'Cloud, was called into consultation. The disease had now assumed an alarming aspect, and it was resolved to blister the temples and take blood freely. But it proved too late; the head had swollen greatly, and the patient sunk into a total stupor, from which he never revived. Early on the morning of Monday, the 19th, he died.

General Anthony Wayne, whose plantation

was not far distant, hearing of the illness of his friend, hastened to his bedside and was with him when he died.

"I have often wrote you," wrote Wayne to Colonel James Jackson, "but never on so distressing an occasion. My dear friend General Greene is no more. He departed this morning, at six o'clock, A. M. He was great as a soldier, greater as a citizen, immaculate as a friend. His corpse will be at Major Pendleton's this night, the funeral from thence in the evening. The honors, the greatest honors, of war are due his remains. You, as a soldier, will take the proper order on this melancholy affair. Pardon this scrawl; my feelings are too much affected because I have seen a great and a good man die."<sup>1</sup>

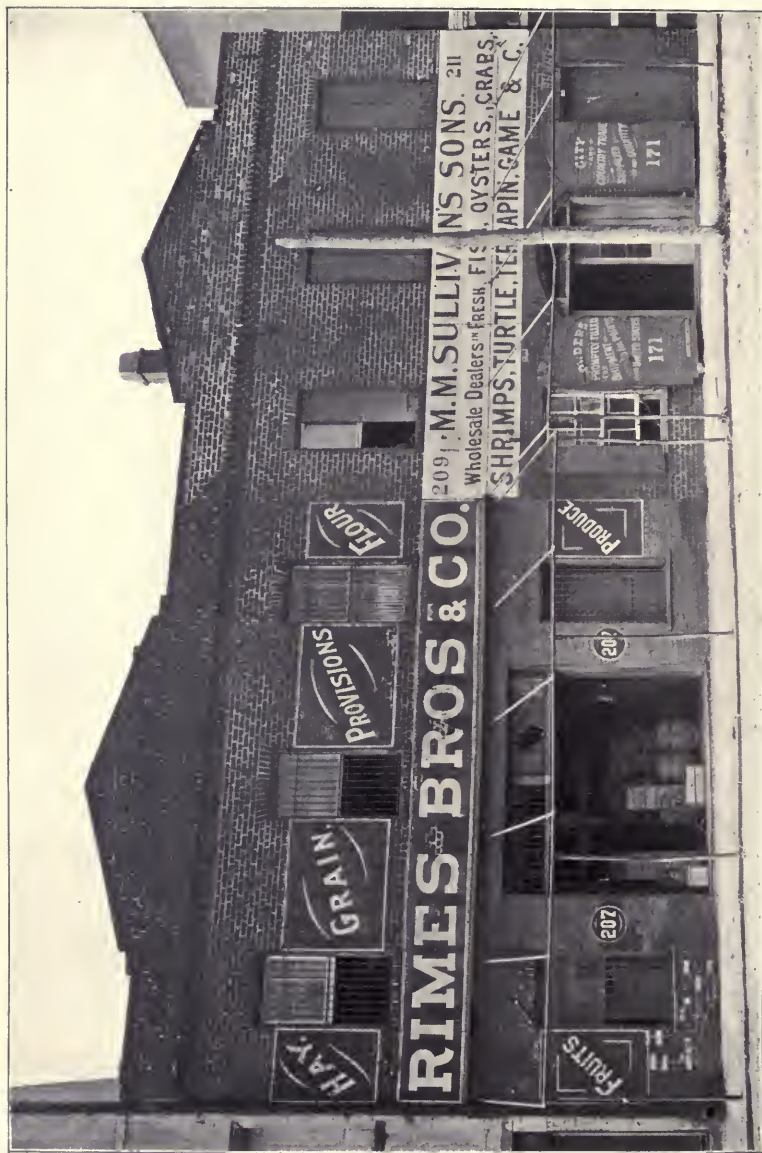
When the news of his death reached Savannah, it produced unusual sorrow, affecting all classes of the people. Preparations were hastily made to do full honors to the memory of the distinguished man, and to surround the obsequies with all the dignity and ceremony befitting his high character and rank.

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<sup>1</sup> Life of Major-General Nathanael Greene, by George Washington Greene, Vol. 3, p. 534.







Site of the House occupied by Major Nathaniel Pendleton, Bay St., Savannah, Ga., from which Gen. Greene was buried.

General Greene died on Monday morning, June 19, 1786, at 6 o'clock. On Tuesday his body was taken by water to Savannah and landed in front of the house of Major Pendleton, which formerly stood on Bay street next to the corner of Barnard street.<sup>1</sup>

It was at this house that he had spent the night only a week before, and from which he had set out on the journey terminating in his death.

In front of this house the militia, representatives of the municipality, members of the Society of the Cincinnati, and many persons in private and official life received the body. The shipping in the harbor had their colors half-masted, the shops and stores in the town were shut, and the people throughout the town suspended their labors, all uniting in giving testimony of the deepest sorrow. At about five o'clock in the afternoon the funeral procession proceeded from the Pendleton house to the Colonial cemetery belonging to Christ's Church; the artillery in Fort Wayne firing

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<sup>1</sup> This house was demolished some years ago, but it is stated some of the timbers of the old house were used in the construction of the present building on the spot. (Letter of Hon. William Harden of Savannah, Ga., to the author.)

minute-guns as the long line advanced, the band playing the solemn "Dead March in Saul." When the funeral procession had reached the burial ground, where a vault had been opened, the regiment filed off to right and left, resting on their arms, with faces turned inwards, till the coffin and pall bearers and long train of mourning citizens had passed through. Then the Hon. William Stevens, judge of the Supreme Court of Chatham county and Grand Master of the Masonic fraternity, in the absence of a clergyman, for none were in the town at the time, took his stand by the head of the coffin, and with tremulous voice read the funeral service of the Church of England. Then the body was placed in the vault, the files closed, and marching up to the right of the vault, gave three general discharges; the artillery fired thirteen rounds, and with trailed arms all slowly and silently withdrew.<sup>1</sup>

Although so large a number of people attended the funeral obsequies and participated in the deep sorrow which followed the death of this distinguished man, and notwithstanding the fact that no man was more highly regarded

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix C.





HOME OF MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANIEL GREENE, AT COVENTRY, R. I.

- Built by General Greene in the year 1770. He lived here until May, 1775, and his wife continued to reside here for several years. Jacob Greene, the general's oldest brother, in 1779 purchased the property, and lived here until his death in 1808.

or nearer to the hearts of the people than General Greene, little more than thirty years the place of his death is unknown.

That this was the subject of comment is shown by the reference to it by a learned writer,<sup>1</sup> as well as by the action of the town of Savannah; for, as early as 1819, efforts were made to ascertain the resting-place of the remains of General Greene, and on July 26 of that year the council of Savannah took action relative to the subject. At this time it was stated :

“ The frequent inquiries made by citizens and strangers ‘ Where lie the remains of the gallant General Greene, who died and was buried in your city,’ and the acknowledged want of information on the subject imply a neglect highly reproachful to the known patriotism and feelings of the inhabitants, and whereas, it would be desirable, and in fact, almost our duty, to satisfy public curiosity in this instance and thereby give an opportunity to the people of

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<sup>1</sup> “ To the disgrace of the nation no monument has been erected, nor, for want of a headstone, or other memorial, can anyone, at present, designate the spot, where the relics of the Hero of the South lie interred.” (*Memoirs of the Life and Campaigns of the Hon. Nathanael Greene*, by Charles Caldwell, M. D., Philadelphia, 1819, p. 399.)



this State, among whom the General lived and died, to testify a share of their gratitude for the noble and important services rendered in the Revolution by this great and eminent soldier and patriot, and tho' this be done late it is yet but a common respect to his memory for this body to claim his precious remains and remove them from the vault where they are now supposed to be deposited and mingling with those in no wise akin to him, and have them interred under the order, sanction and special protection of this board so as to enable the Legislature or the public hereafter to erect some monument worthy the memory of this great and good man." <sup>1</sup>

On motion of Alderman Harris it was unanimously resolved, "That the Mayor and Aldermen Harris and Ash be a committee to ascertain by all means in their power, the vault where the remains of General Greene have been deposited and on identifying the same to have such remains placed in a neat mahogany coffin and thereupon report to council for their further proceedings on this interesting subject." It was resolved further that this decision of

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<sup>1</sup> A History of the City Government of Savannah from 1790 to 1900, by Thomas Gamble, Jr., p. 124.



council should be "communicated to the representatives of the deceased who may now be in the State, and also to the proprietors of the vault to be opened, to obtain leave for the committee to carry this resolution into effect." The committee was authorized to draw on the treasurer for any expenses incurred for this object and that the treasurer pay the same. This committee failed to ascertain where the remains of the General lay, and on November 29, 1819, when another administration had assumed charge of the affairs of the city, the committee was revived for this purpose, with Alderman Ash still a member of it. As far as the records of the city council show, the committee never reported, and it is presumed failed to secure the information sought.

In the columns devoted to the news of the day in the *Providence Journal* of March 31, 1825, the editor states: "Measures have been taken in Savannah for the erection of a monument to the memories of Greene and Pulaski, the cornerstone of which Gen. Lafayette has been requested to lay with Masonic ceremony. We were a witness some years since to a laudable attempt made by the authorities of Savannah to discover the remains of Gen. Greene in

a tomb of the public burying ground, where they had been deposited, with a view to re-inter them with appropriate honor: but such had been the rapid process of decay, not a vestige of what could be identified, even to the dust of the coffin, could be found after the most diligent search."

In connection with this statement, "Mr. William Harden, librarian of the Georgia Historical Society, who had made researches for some years with a view of securing clues that would lead to the discovery of the resting-place of General Greene, continued his investigations, and on March 12 (1901) announced that he had become satisfied that the vault in which the remains were found was not that of the Jones family, but the one belonging to the Mossmans, to whom the vault had been restored and who had not, as tradition had it, removed the body of General Greene. Where placed in 1786, there the body, Mr. Harden declared, had remained undisturbed until 1901.

"In the vault, just before the discovery of what is supposed to be the Greene coffin-plate, a coffin-plate was found bearing the name Robert Scott. This Scott, it appears, married Miss Margaret Oliver, the niece of James

Mossman. On his death, in 1845, Scott was buried in the Mossman vault. Philip Young, nephew of James Mossman, died in June, 1819, and as at the time there was an epidemic of yellow-fever in Charleston, with Savannah in an extremely sickly state, Mr. Harden's conclusion is that the aldermanic committee did not open this vault owing to his body having been recently placed therein," and hence the search referred to by the correspondent of the *Providence Journal* was not as complete as would be inferred from the item in that paper.

In 1821, when the Honorable William Johnson, one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, published his splendid life of General Greene, he referred to the burial place in these words: "The funeral ceremony of the Church of England was read over the corpse by the Honorable William Stevens, as there was not at that time a minister of the gospel in the city. The body was then deposited in a vault, but the identical vault still remains a subject of inquiry. The graves and vaults are all disposed in regular rows, and there are four contiguous vaults in one of these rows, one of which four, it is ascertained, the body was disposed in, but

which of them still remains in doubt. A committee was appointed in 1820 (1819) by the mayor and aldermen to search for the remains and deposit them, with due solemnity, in a fit receptacle; and the committee have made diligent researches in several of the four designated vaults but were prevented, by unavoidable obstacles, from extending the search at all. The coffin is distinguished, wherever it lies, by a plate of silver or brass, engraven with the name and age in the usual manner.”<sup>1</sup>

Judge Johnson had frequent conversations with Judge Stevens, who read the burial service, relative to the place of interment, and he repeatedly told Judge Johnson that “the body of General Greene lay in the tomb of the Jones’.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Deposited in an unknown vault, the coffin of Nathanael Greene was distinguished only by a small metallic plate, which in the usual manner bears the name and age of the occupant. Upon this plate rests the only hope of identifying the remains of our subject, the search for which, partially urged perhaps, has hitherto proved fruitless. (*The Life of Nathanael Greene, Major-General in the Army of the Revolution*, edited by W. Gilmore Simms, Esq., New York, Derby & Jackson 1849, p. 356.)”

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<sup>2</sup> “Judge Stevens, who performed the funeral service, has repeatedly told the author, that the body of General Greene lay in the tomb of the Jones’s. That tomb had not yet

Subsequent investigation shows that even the person that read the funeral service, and who was more closely connected with the committal than anyone else, had forgotten entirely where this service took place. Judge Johnson further states that the Jones' tomb has not yet been searched, but there is much evidence to prove that it was placed, at first, in that of the Grahams', as an appendage to the confiscated estate conferred on him by Georgia. This vault afterward passed to the family of Mossman, who married a sister of Mrs. Graham. From which he was induced to believe that it was removed under the orders of Mrs. Mossman, but whither is unknown, but that there was a possibility that it may have been removed to that of the Jones'.<sup>1</sup>

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been searched. But, there is much evidence to prove, that it was placed, at first, in that of the Graham's, as an appendage to the confiscated estate conferred on him by Georgia. This vault, afterwards, passed to the family of Mossman, who married a sister of Mrs. Graham. From which the author's inquiries induce him to believe, that it was removed under the orders of Mrs. Mossman, but whither is unknown. There is still a possibility, that it may have been removed to that of the Jones's," (Note in Johnson's *Life of Nathanael Greene*, Vol. 2, p. 421.)

<sup>1</sup> Note in Johnson's *Life of Nathanael Greene*, Vol. 2, p. 421.

For more than eighty years no further attempt appears to have been made to ascertain where these remains were deposited; but on the 28th of January, 1901, at a special meeting of the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island, the following resolution was presented and adopted:<sup>1</sup>

“ *Whereas*, after diligent inquiry, it is believed that full investigation has never yet been made to ascertain definitely where the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, President of the Rhode Island Society of Cincinnati, were finally deposited after his decease at Mulberry Grove, near Savannah, Georgia, in 1786; and,

“ *Whereas*, it is believed that a thorough search of the four old burial vaults in the old cemetery now forming a part of Colonial Park in Savannah, Georgia, will determine whether the remains are deposited in one of the said vaults, as believed by persons well informed in matters of local history, or at a certain place in the said old graveyard, as insisted by a venerable citizen of the State of Georgia, who has for seventy years been a member of the Chatham Artillery company which acted as escort at Major-General Greene's funeral, such insistence being based on statements made to

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix D.

him by former members of said artillery organization who had assisted at said funeral; and,

“ *Whereas*, it is particularly appropriate that the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations should do whatever may be necessary towards ascertaining the burial place of its first president, the great patriot and soldier, who, next to Washington, aided so potentially in securing the independence of the United States;

“ *Resolved*, by the said society, that one hundred dollars are hereby appropriated for the purpose of making the proposed inquiry.

“ *Resolved*, that the following committee be appointed and respectfully asked to accept said appointment, to do all that is needful to carry out the intent of the above resolution, to wit:

“ Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, LL.D., President of the Rhode Island Cincinnati;

“ Mr. Philip D. Daffin, chairman of the Savannah Park and Tree Commission;

“ Hon. Walter G. Charlton, President of the Society of Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia;

“ Hon. George A. Mercer, President of the Georgia Historical Society;

“ Alfred Dearing Harden, Esq., member of of the South Carolina Society of the Cincinnati; and

“ William Harden, Esq., Secretary of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the



State of Georgia and Librarian of the Georgia Historical Society.”

The high character of these gentlemen, and their prominence in the affairs of the city of Savannah and State of Georgia, may be better understood by the following personal references to them: Col. Mercer is an attorney at law, one of the oldest members of the Georgia bar, and known throughout the State as one of its most brilliant and learned men. On account of ill health he has been obliged to give up the active practice of his profession. Mr. Charlton is one of the leading attorneys at law in Savannah, actively interested in patriotic societies, and prominent in the affairs of the city. Mr. Daffin is a cotton merchant, who for many years had intimate relations with Rhode Island merchants and manufacturers, and dealt largely with the A. & W. Sprague Co., B. B. & R. Knight, and others. He is a man of great public spirit, and has done much toward laying out and beautifying the extensive park system in Savannah. Hon. William Harden is a member of the Georgia Legislature, librarian of the Georgia Historical Society, which position he has held for more than thirty-seven years. He is a careful historian,



and thoroughly informed on the history of the city and State. His father was an attorney at law in Savannah, and counsel for Christ's Church, which corporation conveyed the cemetery, in which the remains were found, to the city of Savannah. Mr. Alfred Dearing Harden is an attorney at law, and was one of the most active members of this committee in the search for the remains of General Greene.

All the gentlemen, residents of Savannah, had previously consented to serve on the committee.

It was not until the first of March that this committee began the work with which it was charged. On that day Colonel Gardiner, its chairman, arrived in Savannah and at once entered upon the search.

Contemporary records and well-founded traditions had established the fact that the body of General Greene had been interred in what is known as the "old cemetery," or the "Colonial cemetery."

This ancient burial place was established in 1758 as the burying ground of Christ's Church.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> History of the City Government of Savannah, by Thomas Gamble, Jr., Secretary to the Mayor, 1900, p. 207.

For nearly one hundred years, it being under the control of a Church of England, it was well kept; a high brick wall surrounded the grounds, and it contained many substantial brick tombs wherein were deposited the remains of the honored dead of Savannah. In time, however, it fell into disuse, for burials there were prohibited by the city. It became overgrown with weeds, and its graves were entirely neglected. "Many tombs had fallen down from decay, and others had been broken into by boys and desecrated, in some instances bones being thrown around the ground. Grave-stones were prostrated and broken, and in many cases the dates upon them changed. The entire burial ground bore evidence of long neglect. Those laying claim to the ground were evidently averse to expending any money in its care; and the city denied the right of ownership, likewise refrained from the expenditure of any money on the 'God's acre' where the dust of the colonists and their descendants lay."<sup>1</sup>

During the War of the Rebellion, when Sherman's army occupied Savannah after the

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<sup>1</sup> History of the City Government of Savannah, Thomas Gamble, Jr., p. 387.



Tomb within which the Remains of Gen. Greene were found, Colonial Park, Savannah, Ga. Photograph by Peter G. Leist.



"march to the sea," this tract of land, as well as the various parks and squares in the city, were used as camping grounds for a portion of Sherman's army. Tents and rough shelters were set up, and even the tombs in this burying ground were occupied by the soldiers.

Gen. Sherman, in his memoirs, says :

<sup>1</sup> "Mr. Stanton (Edwin M.) staid in Savannah several days, and seemed very curious about matters and things in general. I walked with him through the city, especially the bivouacs of the several regiments that occupied the vacant squares, and he seemed particularly pleased at the ingenuity of the men in constructing their temporary huts. Four of the 'dog tents,' or *tentes ā'abri*, buttoned together, served for a roof, and the sides were made of clapboards or rough boards brought from demolished houses or fences. I remember his marked admiration for the hut of a soldier who had made his door out of a handsome parlor mirror, the glass gone and its gilt frame serving for his door."

During those days of occupancy it is stated it was no uncommon sight to see smoke, issuing from stove-pipes projecting from these

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<sup>1</sup> Personal Memoirs of Gen'l W. T. Sherman, Vol. II, p. 244.

tombs, from the fires kindled by the soldiers to cook their meals and heat these damp habitations. Most of the tombs were broken into for the double purpose of securing a lodging place and searching for the treasure and plate which it was supposed the inhabitants had secreted in them at the approach of the army. At the close of the war this ancient burial place was in a much more dilapidated condition than it had been for many years previous.

In 1892, Mayor McDonough called attention to its condition in the following words: "the remains in the vaults therein are in many cases exposed to view, and the dilapidated condition of the vaults and surroundings are such as to impress one unfavorably in the extreme. It would be best to collect those remaining into one receptacle and place them in a portion of the cemetery where they would be undisturbed, or remove them to another place of burial where they might rest free from interference of persons who often find their way into the cemetery without permission and desecrate it. In its present condition the cemetery is an eye-sore, and will continue so as long as the question of title or the right of the city to improve it prevails. It would be much better if

the old cemetery could be abandoned entirely as a relic, the wall removed, and the streets opened through it.”<sup>1</sup>

During the period from 1881 to 1895 various attempts had been made to bring about a better condition of this ancient burial ground. On November 9, 1895, these efforts were brought to a successful termination by a decree of the Supreme Court of Chatham county, *In re* “John Williamson *et al.*, Complainants and The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah Defendants, The Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah called the Christ Church complaint and the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah Defdant” whereby the title of these grounds became vested in the city. Under the agreements made in consideration of this decree, the city obligated itself to preserve and forever perpetuate this tract of land as a public park under the title of “Colonial Park.”<sup>2</sup>

This park was immediately placed under the direction of the Park and Tree Commission, which improved it by removing the wall, laying

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<sup>1</sup> A History of the City Government of Savannah from 1790 to 1900, by Thomas Gamble, Jr., p. 389.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix E.



out walks, planting trees and shrubbery, restoring the tombs, and generally renovating the grounds. Within this park was a tomb, formerly an appendage to the confiscated estate of Lieutenant-Governor John Graham, which had been given to General Greene by the State of Georgia as a testimonial of the love and affection of the people of that State and for his great service during the Revolutionary struggle.

Immediately upon the arrival of Colonel Gardiner, the work of searching the tombs in these grounds was undertaken in a most thorough and systematic manner, permission to do this having been obtained of His Honor Herman Meyers, Mayor of Savannah.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "SAVANNAH, GA., March 1st, 1901.

" MESSRS. WILLIAM HARDEN, ALFRED D. HARDEN AND WALTER G. CHARLTON, *City*.

"GENTLEMEN :—Replying to your communication of this date, requesting permission to open and examine certain vaults in the Colonial Park, for which no living representatives of former owners can be found, permission is herewith given, subject to the consent of the Park and Tree Commission, to open the said three vaults provided no representatives of the owners can be found in the city or State, and that the vaults be restored after the examination to their former condition.

"Very respectfully,

"HERMAN MEYERS,

"*Mayor.*"



All the members of the committee entered with enthusiasm upon the work. Mr. Daffin placed his head clerk and assistant, Mr. William H. Robertson, in charge of the actual working force, which consisted of Charles C. Gattman and Edward M. Keenan, all trusted employees of the Park and Tree Commission.

During the search Colonel Gardiner was continuously present, and other members of the committee, officials of the city, and prominent citizens formed an interested group wherever the workmen were engaged. Prominent among those who watched the progress of the work were Mr. Robert Tyler Waller, whose wife is a descendant of General Greene; Mr. Otis Ashmore, superintendent of public schools; Hon. Thomas Mason Norwood, judge of the City Court and former United States Senator; Hon. Robert Falligant, judge of the Supreme Court, and member of the North Carolina State Society of Cincinnati, since deceased; the Hon. Pope Barrow, formerly United States Senator; and Captain Thomas Screvens.

The order in which the various tombs were examined is best stated in the words of Colonel Gardiner in his address delivered before the

Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati at Newport, July 4, 1901.

“The committee’s attention was first given to examination of the many vaults, including one known as the Dr. Donald MacLeod vault and others, where, according to tradition, the remains had been deposited.

“Many of these vaults were found to be in a very bad condition, for want of proper repairs. The most careful scrutiny, nevertheless, was made, in a reverent and proper manner, and records kept of the coffin-plates which were found, to the gratification of many in Savannah, who, in the absence of distinguishing marks to those vaults, owing to the vandalism before referred to, did not know with certainty where the remains of certain members of their families had been deposited. Every vault was immediately reclosed with cemented brick, on conclusion of examination, before another vault was opened.

“The labor was exclusively performed through the Park and Tree Commission, under the immediate charge of Mr. William H. Robertson, chief clerk and deputy to that commission, and the trusted employees of that commission were alone employed in the important work of examining the remains in the vaults, all under the personal supervision of the committee.

“ Finally, after all the vaults where tradition, or statements more or less positive, by citizens, averred that the remains were deposited had been critically and carefully examined, the committee gave its exclusive attention to the four ‘ Colonial ’ vaults in a row, located at a right angle to Oglethorpe avenue.

“ The first of these, nearest to that avenue, although like the rest without distinguishing mark, was found to be the family vault of Colonel Richard Wylly, Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army in the Revolution, and member of the Georgia State Society of the Cincinnati. His remains and coffin-plate were there found.

“ The next in line was supposed to be the Jones vault, and its examination, as a matter of courtesy, was deferred by the committee until the last, in order to communicate first with Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq., proper representative of that family.

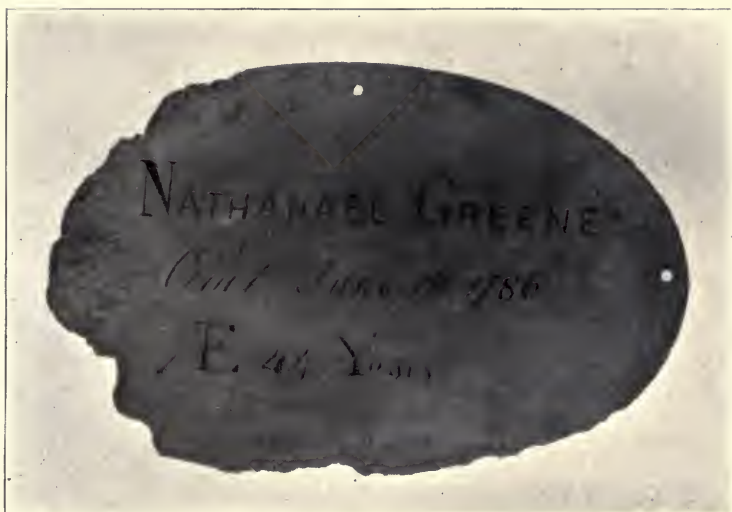
“ The third vault in line, upon being opened, was found to be empty, but the committee afterward ascertained that this vault was really the ‘ Jones ’ vault, from which all remains, properly identified, had been removed, as before stated, to Bonaventure cemetery by the late George Wimberly Jones de Renne, Esq.

“ The fourth vault in line was found to be that of an old Savannah family, the Thiot family, whose representatives still reside there.

“ The committee then gave its final attention to the second vault in line, which was opened at the front, to permit workmen to enter, and a smaller opening was made through the rear brick wall to permit entrance of light and air. In the centre of the vault were found probably a cartload of broken bricks, which had first to be removed.”

In another part of his address Colonel Gardner states that “ The brick work had no appearance of having been broken through, but even had an opening been effected, the vault would, on a cursory inspection, have appeared to be abandoned, as most of the interior was filled with broken brick, although how the brick got there is a mystery.”

This vault was opened on Monday, March 4, 1901. Upon descending into the tomb, the workmen found on one side a coffin in a good state of preservation, on which was a silver plate bearing the name of Robert Scott and the date of his death, June 5, 1845, his age being at that time seventy years. As had been the custom in the examination of all the tombs, the workmen examined with great care the dust and mold on the floor of this vault; and on the opposite side, in the sandy soil which con-



COFFIN-PLATE FOUND AMONG THE REMAINS OF GEN. GREENE.

The original is now preserved in the rooms of the Georgia  
Historical Society, Savannah, Ga.



stituted the floor of this tomb, discovered pieces of rotted and decayed wood, mingled with which were the bones of a human skeleton.

Upon the discovery of this mass of broken bones and rotted wood intermingled with the sand and mold, Mr. Keenan, one of the workmen, "was sent to the City Green House at No. 608 Barnard street for a sieve" with which to separate the dust from the more substantial parts of the debris. While he was absent upon this errand, Mr. Gattman, the other workman, picked out from among the remains a piece of metal, conforming in appearance to a coffin-plate, which was badly corroded; but upon rubbing it upon his clothing to remove the corrosion or incrustation, he was quite certain that he could decipher the figures "1786."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "CITY OF SAVANNAH,

"OFFICE PARK AND TREE COMMISSION.

"STATE OF GEORGIA,

"CHATHAM COUNTY.

"In the city of Savannah and said county on this 17th day of March A. D. 1902 personally appeared before me Leander Butler a notary public in and for Chatham county in said State Edward M. Keenan, of said Savannah who being duly sworn on oath deposes and says that on the 4th day of March A. D. 1901 I was an employee of the Committee of Citizens of Savannah appointed to make the search for the remains of General Nathanael Greene. That I was one of the workmen

He then passed it through the opening in the tomb to Mr. Edward J. Kelly, who was on the outside. This occurred about one o'clock, and few persons, if any, besides Colonel Gardiner and Mr. Kelly, were present, for those who had been at the Park most of the forenoon had at this time withdrawn for lunch. Mr. Kelly immediately placed in

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who opened a certain vault in the Colonial Park formerly one of the cemeteries of said city and in company with Charles C. Gattman who was at that time one of the workmen employed by said committee entered said vault which I am informed and verily believe to be the so called Graham Mossman vault and on one side of said vault noted the rotting fragments of a coffin mingled with which was the remains of a skeleton of a human being.

"That in the performance of my labors for said committee I entered said vault in the Colonial Park in said city of Savannah on said 4th day of March and that in order to examine the remains and debris in said vault I was sent to the City Green House at No. 608 Barnard street near the corner of Huntington and Barnard streets for a sieve. Upon my return I was informed by Colonel Gardiner that the coffin-plate of Gen. Greene had been found. I again entered the vault and after picking out the largest of the bones among the remains from which the plate had been taken the dust and mold was sifted and among the particles remaining in the sieve I found three metal buttons which were corroded and upon rubbing off some of the green substance on one of said buttons I distinguished the faint outlines of an eagle, that among the bones removed were the rotted fragments of as many as three silk gloves the fingers of which were partially



Colonel Gardiner's hands this significant evidence of the successful termination of the search. In a few minutes Mr. Keenan, who had gone for the sieve, returned to the spot and was informed by Colonel Gardiner "that the coffin-plate of General Greene had been found." About this time Mr. Alfred Dearing Harden arrived on the spot. Keenan again

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gone but the portion covering the palms of the hands were in a fair state of preservation and were sufficiently firm as to be shaken to remove the dust and mould with which they were covered, that among the remains from which the coffin plate of General Greene was found, there appeared to be the bones of two persons one much younger than the other, which fact I believe from the size of the bones that upon the completion of the examination of the vault the remains among which the coffin plate was found were placed in two boxes which work was done within the vault by Chas. C. Gattman and myself and the boxes nailed up and assisted by Chas. C. Gattman carried the same to police barracks where the remains were transferred to two caskets which had been furnished Col. Asa Bird Gardiner. That on the side of said vault opposite to the remains heretofore referred to there was a casket in a good state of preservation containing the remains of Robert Scott which fact I believe for the reason that the silver plate thereon bore the name of Robert Scott and date of death June 5th 1845 and his age seventy years.

"EDW. M. KEENAN."

"Signed in presence of

"LEANDER BUTLER,

"*N. P. C. C. Ga.*

[L. S.]

entered the tomb, and he and Gattman, while engaged in picking out the largest of the bones, concluded that instead of these being the bones of one body that there were "the bones of two persons, one much younger than the other." They then began to sift the small fragments of bone, wood, dust, and mold; and while doing so, Keenan, who was using the sieve, found, among the particles remaining in the sieve, three metal buttons, evidently of brass, badly corroded; upon cleaning them as well as he was able, by rubbing them upon his clothing, he found upon one what he believed to be the faint outlines of an eagle.<sup>1</sup> The result of this sifting also disclosed the rotted fragments of as many as "three silk gloves the fingers of which were partially gone but the portion covering the palms of the hands were in a fair state of preservation and were sufficiently firm as to be shaken to remove the dust and mould with which they were covered." Colonel Gardiner and Mr. Alfred D. Harden, of the committee, and Mr. Otis Ashmore, superintendent of pub-

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<sup>1</sup> These buttons were evidently brass and were  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch in diameter.

lic schools, and others examined these remains before they were removed from the vault.

It was quite evident from the quantity of fragments of bones and portions of gloves that the remains of two persons were intermingled; and Gattman, who was somewhat accustomed to handling the remains of persons long since deceased, was of the opinion that they were the remains of two persons, one much younger than the other.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "CITY OF SAVANNAH,

"OFFICE PARK AND TREE COMMISSION.

"STATE OF GEORGIA,

"CHATHAM COUNTY,

"In the city of Savannah and said county on this 17th day of March A. D. 1902 personally appeared before me Leander Butler a notary public in and for Chatham county in said State, Charles C. Gattman of said Savannah who being duly sworn on oath deposes and says that on the 4th day of March A. D. 1901 I was an employee of the Committee of Citizens of Savannah appointed to make the search for the remains of General Nathanael Greene. That I was one of the workmen who opened a certain vault in the Colonial Park formerly one of the cemeteries in said city and in company with Edward M. Keenan who was at that time one of the workmen employed by said committee entered said vault which I am informed and verily believe to be the so called Graham Mossman vault and on one side of said vault noted the rotting fragments of a coffin mingled with which was the remains of a skeleton of a human being at a point among said remains where the bones of the breast appear I found a piece of metal

When these facts were considered in connection with the fact that George Washington Greene, the eldest son of General Greene, at the age of eighteen years, was drowned in the

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conforming in appearance to a coffin plate which was badly corroded on which I noted the date 1786 and so stated to Mr. Edward J. Kelly, who was present at the time; and I passed this piece of metal to wit: the said coffin plate through the opening in the vault to said Edward J. Kelly, and I further depose and say that along side of the remains among which I found said piece of metal on which the figures 1786 appeared there was the remains of another human skeleton which I believe to be those of a male person of the age of nineteen or thereabouts. That I have had considerable experience in the examination and handling of remains of persons long deceased and I believe that said remains had never been disturbed. That on the side of said vault opposite to the remains heretofore referred to there was a casket in a good state of preservation containing the remains of Robert Scott which fact I believe for the reason that the silver plate thereon bore the name of Robert Scott and the date of death June 5th, 1845, and his age seventy years.

“That upon the completion of the examination of the vault the remains among which the coffin plate was found were placed in two boxes which work was done within the vault by Edward M. Keenan and myself and the boxes nailed up and assisted by Edward M. Keenan carried the same to the police barracks.

“CHAS. C. GATTMAN.”

“Signed in the presence of

“LEANDER BUTLER,

“*N. P. C. C. Ga.*

[L. S.]

Savannah river, March 28, 1793, and his remains were buried beside his father, this discovery was deemed of great importance. The remains of the two bodies were separated as well as it was possible to do so, and placed in boxes specially prepared for the purpose and were removed to the police barracks nearby. The next day (March 5) the remains of General Greene were transferred to a zinc-lined box "in the presence of the lieutenant of police and other policemen and the members of the committee and the press and W. T. Dixon, undertaker, of 15 Perry street, East, and his assistants."<sup>1</sup>

Such of the remains as were thought to be those of George Washington Greene were placed in a similar box, and after both had been properly distinguished by coffin-plates appropriately inscribed, the two boxes were transferred to the vault in the Southern Bank of the State of Georgia, subject to the joint order of Colonel Asa Bird Gardiner and Mr. Alfred Dearing Harden.

Mr. Ashmore, who was present when the remains were discovered, took pains to examine

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D.

them, with great care, for such evidence as would throw any light upon their identity, and he made careful notes of their condition. The left femur was 18" long, and the diameter of this bone was 2". The cranium was so decayed that any measurements which might have been made would have been of little consequence.

The lower jaw contained twelve teeth, and the upper left jaw six teeth. A portion of the right side of the lower jaw and the base of the cranium were entirely destroyed, and the other bones of the body were so badly decayed that they could not be identified. The two back teeth in the left lower jaw were filled with gold,<sup>1</sup> which would seem to show that the remains were those of a person of means and unusual advantages at that time, for the practice of filling teeth with gold at the period of General Greene's death, in 1786, was not common.

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<sup>1</sup> The use of gold for filling cavities of decay in human teeth for the purpose of arresting its progress is very ancient. It is at present impossible to say when or by whom it was introduced. The old Arabian medical writers make mention of it in their works, and it is frequently referred to by others. The *Dental Cosmos*, Vol. XXIX, January, 1887, page 1, contains a translation of a copy, in German, of the oldest known dental publication; the copy was printed in 1541, although

The lower teeth were worn, which would indicate that the remains were those of a person of at least middle life.

In the address of Colonel Asa Bird Gardiner, before the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati, at Newport, July 4, 1902, relative to the discovery of the remains, which address is in

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there are copies dated 1530, 1532, 1536, and 1614. The edition of 1532 has been translated into modern German, and a copy of this is in the Army Medical Library, Washington. At page 7 of the translation of the edition of 1541 is a quotation from Mesue, an early Arabian medical writer, who directs that "the hollow is to be cleaned with suitable instruments and filled with gold leaves to preserve the remaining part of the tooth." John De Vigo (sometimes written Johannes de Vigo), who wrote at Rome, about 1514, a comprehensive book on Medical Science (*Practica in Arte Chirurgica copiosa*, Giovanni da Vigo, Rome, 1514. In some editions it is known as "Vigon's Surgery"), also quotes this saying of Mesue's. Editions of this work in English and in Latin are in the Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. See also *International Dental Journal*, Vol. XIX, June, 1898, page 333.

Peter Fauchard wrote in 1728 the first real dental textbook (*Le Chirurgien Dentiste*, par Pierre Fauchard, Paris, 1728). In this for the first time were fully described the various operations a dentist is expected to perform, and he treats of the use of gold for filling teeth; he preferred, however, lead, on account of its softness. He also used tin for the same purpose.

Its use was well known in the profession long prior to 1786, and every well-educated dentist (and there were many at that



the nature of a report on the subject to the society, he says, regarding the tomb in which the remains were found: "In the centre of the vault were found probably a cartload of broken bricks, which had at first to be removed." (See Appendix D.) In another part of his address Colonel Gardiner states: "The brick work had no appearance of having been broken

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time) was undoubtedly in the habit of using it in all cases where his judgment approved. Lead was used for cheapness, and for its softness, just as amalgam or alloy is used today. Some preferred lead on account of its supposed virtue in controlling inflammatory conditions; for the same reason, others, in later times, advocated its use for pulp capping.

Among the earliest, if not *the* first, to practice dentistry in America, was Robert Wooffendale. He was a pupil of Thomas Berdmore, who wrote a treatise upon the teeth in 1768. Wooffendale, after his return to England, wrote a little book upon the teeth, dated 1783 (*Practical Observations on the Human Teeth*, by R. Wooffendale, London, 1783), in which he advocates the use of gold for stopping teeth, and condemns lead, although admitting that he used lead for several years after he began practice as a dentist. He had not been in practice long before his visit to this country, so we are in doubt on two points — whether before his conversion to the advantages of gold he used lead exclusively, or used it in some cases and lead in others; and also whether his preference for gold dates before or after his visit here. There is no question, however, but that gold was in general use for filling teeth long before his time.

I am indebted to William H. Trueman, D. D. S., of Philadelphia, for the information contained in the foregoing



through, but even had an opening been effected the vault would, on a cursory inspection, have appeared to be abandoned, as most the interior was filled with broken brick, although how the brick got there is a mystery." This statement becomes an interesting and somewhat important feature in this account.

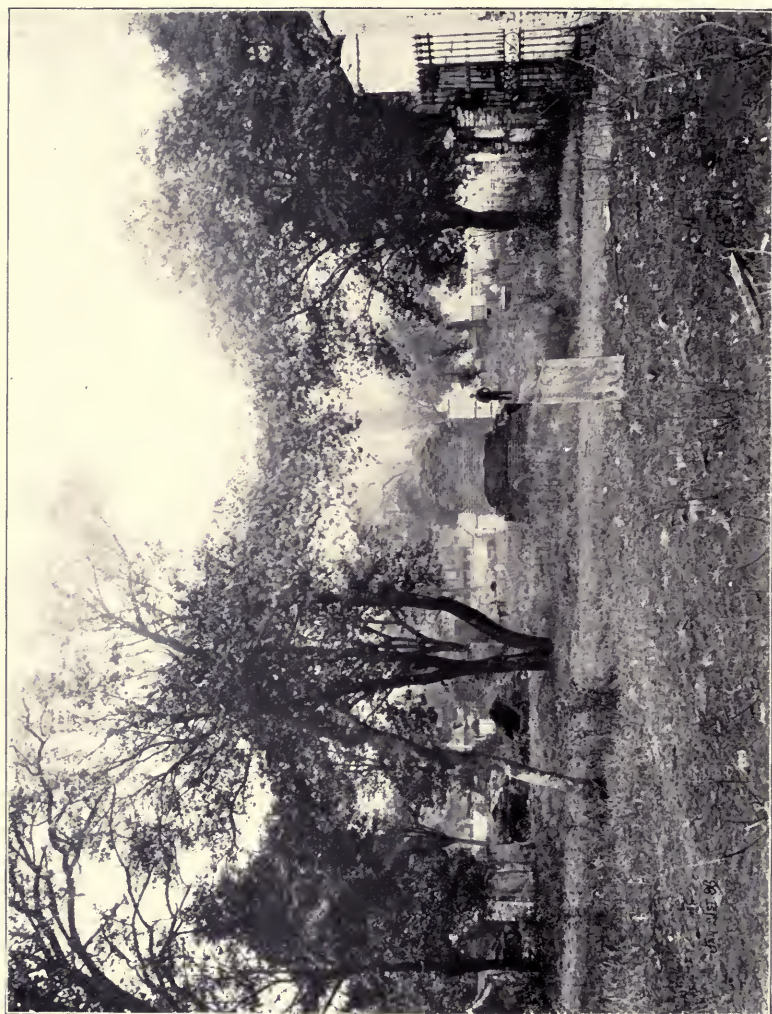
On January 21, 1896, soon after this burial ground became a part of the city's possessions and was placed in the custody of the Park and

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statement. In a paper written by the same gentleman for the Academy of Stomatology, Philadelphia, and printed in the *Dental Cosmos*, Vol. XXXVIII, Sept., 1896, page 713, on the advent of dental science in the United States, reference is made to Joseph Lemaire, a surgeon of the French Navy, who came over with Count Rochambeau, during the War of the Revolution, and who was skilled in the art of dentistry. While the American and French armies were in camp near Providence, R. I., during the winter of 1781-82, Lemaire performed dental operations for officers of the army and others; he also instructed Josiah Flagg, son of Lieutenant-Colonel Josiah Flagg, of Boston, in this art. Josiah Flagg was the first native born American dentist; he began practice at Boston about 1783, and we know that he used gold for filling teeth; for in a circular, dated about 1785, he advertises to "mend teeth with foil or gold to be as lasting and useful as sound teeth." (Biographical Sketch of Josiah Flagg, by Dr. Burton L. Thorpe, *Dental Review*, Vol. XVI, April, 1902, page 323.) It is quite possible that the fillings remaining in the teeth found among the remains were placed there by Joseph Lemaire.—(*Author*).

Tree Commission, that commission caused a photograph to be taken of a portion of these grounds; fortunately this photograph shows the tomb within which the remains were found, and in the dilapidated condition in which this and the other tombs as well as the grounds were at this date (see plate of the date January 21, 1896). It will be observed from the photograph that the tomb and the one beside it show the rear portions broken away. More than a year after, on November 21, 1897, this commission caused another photograph to be taken from nearly the same position that the first had been taken; this shows the improvements that had been made by the Park and Tree Commission during this period: walks had been laid out, grave-stones replaced, and the trees and shrubbery put in order. The broken end of the tomb in which rested the remains of General Greene had been repaired, leaving within the tomb the pile of broken brick which had fallen in when the tomb had been laid open either at the time of Sherman's occupancy of Savannah or at some other time. Although the tomb bore no evidence from the outside of having been broken through, the photograph shows its condition before the





GRAHAM TOMB.

COLONIAL CEMETERY, SAVANNAH, GA., JANUARY 21, 1896.

work of the Park and Tree Commission. (see plate of the date, November 21, 1897.) A great number of these tombs were broken into during the Civil War; but it is reasonable to believe that this tomb was not entered by the soldiery or others at this time, for within it was the coffin containing the remains of Robert Scott, who died June 5, 1845. At the time of the discovery of General Greene's remains, forty years after the war, this coffin was in a good state of preservation, and certainly must have been in a very much better condition at that time, which, for obvious reasons, may have prevented the soldiers from using this tomb for a temporary shelter.

The finding of a plate such as is commonly placed upon the coffin containing the remains of a dead person is one of the most conclusive evidences of the identity of the remains among which such coffin-plate is found. That the coffin-plate found among the remains in the so-called Graham-Mossman vault in Colonial Park, Savannah, is authentic, there is no reason to doubt. All these interesting details regarding the finding of this coffin-plate are corroborated by all the gentlemen connected with

the search for the remains, as are all the material facts stated in the report of Colonel Gardiner.<sup>1</sup>

This plate was so badly corroded that very little upon it could be deciphered when it was

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<sup>1</sup> "SAVANNAH, GA., Mar., 1902.

"EDWARD FIELD, ESQ., *Sec., etc.*

"DEAR SIR: — The undersigned residents of Savannah, Ga., members of the committee appointed by the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati to ascertain the location of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, take pleasure in stating to you that they have no doubt that the remains found in the Graham-Mossman vault, so-called, in the Colonial Park in the city of Savannah, are the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene, and the discovery thereof was made substantially as stated in the address of Colonel Asa Bird Gardiner before the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati, July 4th, 1901.

"Yours very truly,

"GEO. A. MERCER,

"*Presd't Ga. Hist. Society.*

"WM. HARDEN,

"*Librarian Ga. Hist. Society.*

"WALTER G. CHARLTON,

"*Presd't Ga. Soc. Sons of Revolution.*

"ALFRED D. HARDEN,

"*Society of the Cincinnati in the State of South Carolina.*

The signature of Mr. Daffin was not obtained, owing to the fact that he was out of the city at the time the paper was signed. — (*Author*).



found. Mr. Gattman says "I found a piece of metal, conforming in appearance to a coffin-plate which was badly corroded on which I noted the date 1786;" this plate was handed by Gattman to Mr. Edward J. Kelly, who in turn handed it to Colonel Gardiner. While in his possession, and before any cleaning processes had been applied to it, it was examined by the members of the committee under whose direction the search was made, and also by many other persons in Savannah, among whom was Mr. Otis Ashmore, superintendent of schools of that city and secretary of the Georgia Historical Society. Mr. Ashmore at this time made an outline tracing of the plate, noting all its characteristics, and especially the ragged edges caused by the action of sulphuretted hydrogen. Colonel Gardiner subsequently placed this plate in the hands of General L. P. DiCesnola, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York city, under whose direction it was cleaned and all the lettering thereon brought to light.

Judge William Johnson, in his life of General Greene, published in Charlestown, South Carolina, in 1822, Vol. II, page 420, says: "The

coffin-plate is distinguished wherever it lies by a plate of silver or brass, engraved with the name and age in the usual manner; and it is confidently hoped will yet be identified."

The plate found among the remains, upon being cleaned, had the following inscription upon it:

" NATHANAEL GREENE  
Obit June 19 1786  
Ae 44 Years."

Soon after it was cleaned it was sent to the Georgia Historical Society, placed under glass within a frame by Mr. Otis Ashmore, where it now remains. It is the identical plate from which he made a tracing and other memoranda at the time of discovery.<sup>1</sup>

The remains of General Greene were found in the place where they were most likely to be located. Connected as an appendage to the confiscated estate of Lieutenant-Governor John Graham was a tomb in the Colonial cemetery, generally known as the "Graham-Mossman vault." It is probable that it had never been

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ashmore's statements to the author, at Savannah, in March 1902.







GRAHAM TOMB.

COLONIAL PARK, SAVANNAH, GA., NOVEMBER 21, 1897.

used for its purpose previous to the death of General Greene. Many years after his death it was so used, and the reasons for such use are clearly stated in the address of Colonel Gardiner, previously alluded to and appended to this report.<sup>1</sup>

Soon after the discovery of these remains, steps were taken to provide for their final interment. Mr. Robert Tyler Waller of Savannah, whose wife is a lineal descendant of General Greene, in behalf of other descendants of the General in or near Savannah, secured from the descendants known to him, in various parts of the country, an expression of their preference for the spot where these honored remains should be finally interred, and the replies received by him showed that nearly all preferred that the remains rest in the city where they had rested so long.

The legislature of the State of Rhode Island, when the subject was referred to that body by the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati, which society had borne so prominent a part in the discovery, appointed a committee to take into consideration the whole subject, and upon

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix D.

recommendation of that committee passed a joint resolution<sup>1</sup> expressing the great respect of the people of Rhode Island for the memory of her distinguished son and the desire to provide for the re-interment of the remains within the State of his birth, should the descendants elect to have them transferred to Rhode Island. In accordance with this resolution, the committee of the General Assembly also communicated with the descendants and obtained an expression of their wishes in the matter, all of whom, with the exception of three, desired that they remain in Savannah: these three however, expressed a preference for the battlefield of Guilford Court House, in North Carolina, as their final resting place. As soon as it was determined where the final interment should take place, arrangements were made by the people of Savannah to give the occasion all the importance and dignity that was due the memory of the great soldier and citizen. In order to provide for such re-interment with proper ceremonies, an organization was formed, consisting of representatives from the various

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<sup>1</sup> See report preceding this account, where this resolution is printed in full.

patriotic societies in Savannah, and designated the "Association of Patriotic Societies." Gen. William W. Gordon was elected president and Robert Tyler Waller, Esq., secretary. It was the intention of this association to make the occasion a patriotic one, and to avoid giving it, as far as it was possible to do so, a funereal aspect. In order that sufficient time might be given to perfect all the details for the ceremonies attending such a momentous occasion, the 14th of November 1902, was fixed as the date for the interment. This association had the entire control of the affair, and the expense was borne by voluntary subscription of the citizens of Savannah, without resorting to the State or municipality for financial assistance.

Invitations<sup>1</sup> to be present on this occasion were extended to His Excellency Charles D. Kimball, Governor of Rhode Island; Hon. Horace F. Horton, Chairman, and Hon. James E. Banigan, Hon. Harry H. Shepard, Hon. Frank T. Easton, Hon. J. Stacy Brown, Hon. Francis W. Greene, and Edward Field, Esq., Secretary, of the Joint Special Committee of the General Assembly of Rhode Island; and to

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix F.

Charles H. Howland, Esq., Executive Secretary.

Colonel Asa Bird Gardiner, President of the Rhode Island Society of Cincinnati.

Hon. George W. Olney, Secretary of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati.

His Excellency Miles B. McSweeney, Governor of South Carolina; His Excellency C. B. Aycock, Governor of North Carolina; His Excellency Joseph M. Terrell, Governor of Georgia; Hon. Clark Howell, president of the Senate of Georgia; Hon. N. D. Morris, speaker of the House of Representatives of Georgia; Hon. T. M. Norwood, judge of the City Court of Savannah; Hon. Pope Barrow, judge of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Ga.; Hon. Henry McAlpin, Ordinary of Chatham County, Ga.; Judge Emory Speer, of the United States Courts of Georgia; Hon. J. G. Moore, senator from the First District of Georgia; Messrs. P. A. Stovall, J. Ferris Cann, and William Harden, representatives to the General Assembly from Chatham County, Ga.; Hon. A. O. Bacon, U. S. senator from Georgia; Hon. A. S. Clay, U. S. senator from Georgia; Colonel Rufus E. Lester, member of Congress from the First District of Georgia, and to the



GEN. WILLIAM W. GORDON,  
Savannah, Ga.

President, Association of Patriotic Societies.





following persons, all lineal descendants of the nearest degree of consanguinity to General Greene :

Mrs. M. R. Troupe, New York ; Mrs. G. D. T. Harrison, New York ; J. K. Nightengale, New York ; William Nightengale, Brunswick ; Mrs. J. T. Charlton, Atlanta ; Mrs. R. T. Waller, Savannah ; Miss E. M. Johnstone, Savannah ; George H. Johnstone, Clarkesville, Ga. ; Miss A. B. Morel, Atlanta ; Mrs. M. W. Morel, Atlanta ; Mrs. B. M. Grant, Atlanta ; L. E. Grant, Atlanta ; L. B. Morrell, Tallahassee, Fla. ; J. A. Skipwith, Concord, N. C. ; Mrs. John W. Greene, New Orleans, La. ; Mrs. Mary S. Roberts, New Orleans, La. ; Mrs. Kate Lemmon, New Orleans, La. ; Miss Mary Ward Greene, Newport, R. I. ; Mrs. Anna Carpenter, Manton, R. I. ; Mrs. Brenton Greene, Princeton, N. J. ; George Washington Greene Carpenter, Manton, R. I. ; P. H. Skipwith, Jr., St. Louis, Mo.

A proclamation<sup>1</sup> of the acting Mayor directed

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<sup>1</sup> "PROCLAMATION.

"CITY OF SAVANNAH, MAYOR'S OFFICE, NOV. 13, 1902.

"*Whereas*, Friday, the 14th day of November, 1902, has been named by the Association of Patriotic Societies for the

that on November 14th, the public offices be closed during the hours of the ceremonies. On that day many of the merchants and tradesmen laid aside their business to pay their tribute of respect to the memory of the great soldier, and the people of the city and many persons from the surrounding country came to add to the impressiveness of the occasion.

At 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon actual preparations for the ceremonies<sup>2</sup> began. At that hour the line of carriages, marshalled by Mr. Frank M. Butner, one of the aides of Chief Marshal Jordan F. Brooks, appeared at the De Soto Hotel, where the visitors, guests,

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re-interment of the remains of Maj.-Gen. Nathanael Greene; and,

*"Whereas*, In view of the distinguished services of Gen. Greene to his country, having occupied a place next to that of Washington, and it being desired in grateful remembrance of this great American to make the occasion a memorable event in the history of Savannah ;

*"Therefore*, I, Jas. M. Dixon, Acting Mayor of the city of Savannah, do hereby issue this, my proclamation, requesting the merchants to close their respective places of business on that day between the hours of 2 and 6, in order to give their employees an opportunity to be present and participate in the ceremonies incident to the occasion, and all persons having

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<sup>2</sup> For programme of exercises, see Appendix H.



ROBERT TYLER WALLER,  
Savannah, Ga.

Secretary, Association of Patriotic Societies.



officers of the Association of Patriotic Societies, and city officials took their places. Then the carriages were driven to the Colonial cemetery, where the first ceremony was to take place, and where the troops were to assemble.

Upon Oglethorpe avenue, with the right resting on Abercorn street, the troops gathered, assembling at 3:30 o'clock. At the same hour were held the exercises at Colonial Park.

Upon the front of the tomb, within which the remains were found, the descendants of General Greene had caused to be placed a

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flags are requested to display the same at half-mast between the hours of 3 and 6.

"Given under my hand and seal of the city of Savannah, this 13th November, 1902.

"JAS. M. DIXON,

"*Acting Mayor.*"

"Attest: WM. P. BAILEY, *Clerk of Council.*"

"NOTICE.

"CITY OF SAVANNAH,

"OFFICE CLERK OF COUNCIL,

"SAVANNAH, GA., NOV. 14, 1902.

"In accordance with the proclamation issued by Alderman Jas. M. Dixon, Acting Mayor, the city offices will be closed this day from 2 p. m. to 6 p. m.

"W. P. BAILEY,

"*Clerk of Council.*"

bronze tablet, marking the spot where these remains had rested so many years. This tablet was inscribed :

“THE GRAHAM VAULT

Here rested for 114 years  
the remains of

MAJ.-GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE,  
Born in Rhode Island Aug. 7, 1742  
Died at Mulberry Grove, June 19, 1786.

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His remains and those of his eldest son  
GEORGE WASHINGTON GREENE  
now lie under the monument in Johnson Square.”

A United States flag obscured it until that point was reached when the bronze should be unveiled.

About the vault and in the Park were gathered hundreds of people. All of the visitors from Rhode Island were in attendance, as were many of the local and visiting members of the Daughters of the American Revolution. A cleared space was maintained immediately before the ivy-grown vault, and just in front of the tablet, veiled by the flag, stood the receptacle containing the honored remains,<sup>1</sup> which

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<sup>1</sup> The remains of George Washington Greene were also contained in this receptacle.



RT. REV. CLELAND K. NELSON,

Bishop of Georgia.





had been taken that morning from the vault of the Southern Bank, where they had remained since their discovery. The casket, made of Georgia curly pine, had been placed upon a caisson by a detail from the Chatham Artillery and conveyed to this ancient cemetery.

This same military organization had borne a conspicuous part at the funeral obsequies of General Greene in 1786, this being one of the first duties the artillery company was called upon to perform after its organization, the year of his death.

Standing at attention by the casket were Serg. A. L. Chapeau, Serg. R. W. Groves, Private A. Nicolas, Private J. D. Myers, Private J. G. Rambo, and Private P. H. Myers, members of the Chatham Artillery, who served as pall bearers.

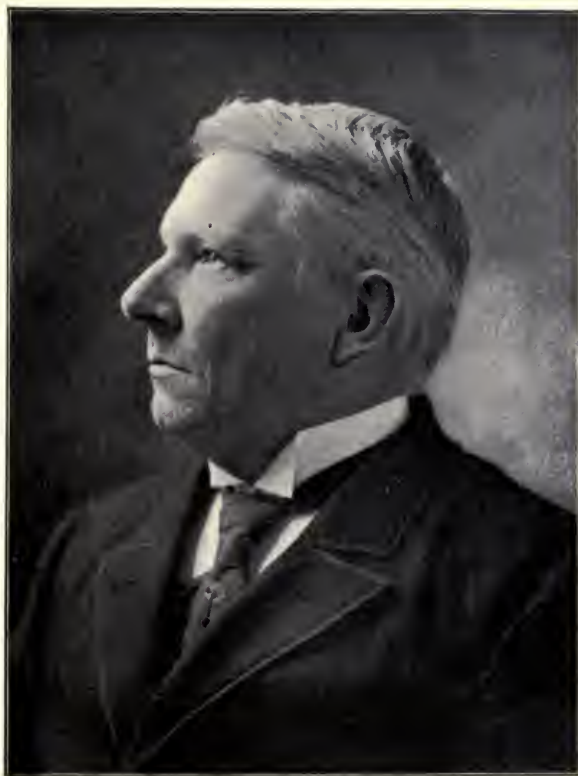
The exercises began with prayer by the Rt. Rev. Cleland K. Nelson, bishop of Georgia.

Upon the conclusion of a dirge played by the band, Hon. Walter G. Charlton, on behalf of the descendants of General Greene, presented the tablet to the keeping of the municipality in the following words :

“ *My Fellow Citizens* :—Over a century ago the people of Savannah assembled on this historic spot, and with all the circumstance which marks a memorable occasion laid to rest in this receptacle for the dead the great warrior, who, having lived through the storms and disasters and triumphs of his country’s beginnings, in the fullness of his manhood and of his honors here sank

“ ‘ to rest,  
By all his country’s wishes blest.’

“ To-day come again the people of Savannah, and with them the distinguished sons and beautiful daughters of other parts, that, with pride and reverence, new honors may be paid to the memory of Nathanael Greene. We who will look upon the procession solemn, yet, triumphant, which is about to bear his remains to their final resting place, need no incentive to keep in our hearts and memories the history and services of this great soldier, whose strong arm and stout heart bore the burden of Georgia’s fate in one of the darkest hours of her existence. That generations of Americans yet to come may be incited to the exercise of patriotic thought by the contemplation of a name made famous in the hour of our country’s



HON. WALTER G. CHARLTON,

Savannah, Ga.



peril, the descendants of General Greene have caused to be placed upon this tomb a tablet of bronze, commemorative of the fact that for upward of a hundred years he here reposed. On their behalf I now commit to the faithful keeping of the municipality of Savannah this work of art, signalizing at once those natural affections which time does not disturb and that sentiment of patriotism which makes our people great."

As Mr. Charlton concluded his address, Master George Washington Greene Carpenter, of Manton, R. I., the son of Alva E. and Anna M. (Greene) Carpenter, and the great-great-grandson of Major-General Greene, unveiled the tablet.

In the absence from the city of the Mayor, Alderman Robert L. Colding accepted the gift, in behalf of the city, speaking as follows:

"*Fellow Citizens*:—In behalf of the city of Savannah, I accept the tablet placed upon this vault, which has been the resting place of the illustrious chieftain for more than a century.

"It gives me unspeakable satisfaction to know that while many different cities have witnessed the desecration of old burial grounds,

that largely through the able services of the speaker who has preceded me, this spot is ever to be kept as it is, and can never lose its identity as the 'Old Cemetery' by which name it was known for years. The avarice of future generations can never cause streets to be opened through this sacred spot, and no portion of it can ever be used for the erection of any public building or stately mansion.

"It seems strange that this vault has never had an inscription placed upon it, to show the precious treasure it contained. This, however, cannot be attributed to any want of appreciation of past generations of the great services rendered by the gallant general, as the granite shaft erected to his memory in Johnson Square successfully rebuts any such presumption.

"We accept this tablet, feeling assured that future generations will regard this spot as sacred, in that it, for so many years, contained the mortal ashes of one who played so conspicuous a part in our forefathers' fight for liberty."

Then the pall bearers took up the bier and moved to the waiting caisson, while the visitors and guests took places in the procession, which moved in the following order to Johnson Square, where the ceremonies were to take place:



ALDERMAN ROBERT L. COLDING,

Savannah, Ga.





*Chief Marshal :*

Colonel Jordan F. Brooks.

*Aids :*

Col. G. T. Cann,                      Capt. G. B. Pritchard,  
Capt. C. A. L. Cunningham,    Lieut. T. H. Gignilliatt,  
Mr. A. B. M. Gibbs,    Mr. C. W. Saussy,    Mr. F. M.  
Butner, and Mr. W. P. Baldwin.

Col. Peter W. Meldrim, First Cavalry, G. S. T.,  
commanding the parade ; staff, Capts. Abram Minis,  
A. Gordon Cassels, and W. G. Harrison.

United States Artillery Band from Fort Getty, Sullivan's Island, S. C., under the leadership of Chief Musician Coitz.

United States Coast Artillery from Fort Screven, Tybee Island, Ga., under command of Lieut.-Col. A. C. Taylor, Lieut. W. G. Peace, Adjutant.

First Regiment Band.

First Regiment Infantry, G. S. T., under command of Col. G. A. Gordon ; staff, Col. J. H. Estill, Capt. Walter E. Coney, Capt. F. W. Garden, Capt. J. G. Jarrell, and Lieut. A. A. Morrison.

Middleton's band.

First Battalion Heavy Artillery (Savannah Volunteer Guards), G. S. T., under command of Major W. W. Williamson ; staff, Lieut. H. L. Richmond, Lieut. W. G. Austin, Lieut. John D. Carswell, Lieut. J. W. Motte, Jr., and Lieut. Craig Barrow.

Lawton Cadets, under command of Capt. Gustave Robertson.

Georgia Hussars, under command of Capt. W. W. Gordon, Jr.

Chatham Artillery, under command of Capt. George P. Walker, acting as a special escort for the remains.

*Second Division :*

Georgia Society, Sons of the American Revolution,

Hon. Walter G. Charlton, President.

Society of Colonial Wars.

Representatives from Patriotic Societies.

*Third Division :*

Mr. Frank M. Butner, Aide, in charge.

First Carriage.—Miss M. M. Morel, Miss E. M. Johnstone, Miss Francis Nightingale, Mr. P. H. Skipwith, Jr.

Second Carriage.—Mrs. R. T. Waller, Mr. George W. G. Carpenter, Mr. R. T. Waller.

Third Carriage.—Gov. C. D. Kimball, Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, Rev. C. K. Nelson, Gen. W. W. Gordon.

Fourth Carriage.—Judge Emory Speer, Judge Samuel B. Adams, Hon. A. O. Bacon, Hon. R. E. Lester.

Fifth Carriage.—Judge Pope Barrow, Judge T. M. Norwood, Judge Henry McAlpin, Hon. W. G. Charlton.

Sixth Carriage.—Hon. H. F. Horton, C. H. Howland, Esq., R. L. Colding, Esq., F. F. Jones, Esq.

Seventh Carriage.—Hon. J. E. Banigan, Hon. J. S. Brown, W. R. Leaken, Esq., Mr. J. M. Barnard, Jr.

Eighth Carriage.—Hon. F. W. Greene, Hon. F. T. Easton, Rev. C. H. Strong, Mr. F. D. Bloodworth.

Ninth Carriage.—Edward Field, Esq., G. C. Nightingale, Esq., Col. W. P. Thomassen, A. D. Harden, Esq.





U. S. Coast Artillery from Fort Screven, Tybee Island, Ga., at Savannah, Ga., November 14, 1902.

Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Carriages.—For the Mayor and Aldermen of Savannah.

Thirteenth Carriage.—Members of the Park and Tree Commission.

Fourteenth Carriage.—Mr. George W. Wylly, Mr. G. Noble Jones, Mr. D. E. Huger Smith, Mr. William Dearing.

Fifteenth Carriage.—Mr. J. A. G. Carson, Dr. T. P. Waring, Col. George A. Mercer, Hon. William Harden.

Sixteenth Carriage.—Mr. S. E. Theus, Mr. G. H. Remshart, Mr. Charles Ellis, Capt. G. M. Gadsden.

Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twentieth Carriages.—Contributors to the fund for defraying the expenses of the ceremonies.

The route of march was on Abercorn street to Liberty, to Bull, to the monument.<sup>1</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> This monument was erected in Johnson Square by a committee composed of John Spellman, John Stevens, W. B. Bulloch, J. V. Bevan, R. W. Habersham, A. Porter, James P. Screven, William Gaston, Alex. Telfair, A. B. Fannin, and J. Bond Read, funds having been provided for such a purpose from the proceeds of the "Greene and Pulaski Monument Lottery." The corner-stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies by General Lafayette, while on his visit to Savannah, on March 26, 1825; four years later the shaft was erected.

Two monuments were proposed by the promotors of this lottery. The "Greene" monument, however, was the first built, and served for many years as a memorial to both Greene and Pulaski. On October 11, 1853, the corner-stone to the Pulaski monument, on Monterey Square, was laid, since which

streets along the line were filled with eager spectators, who viewed the procession with marked interest.

When the troops reached that portion of Bull street between York and Congress, they were drawn up in line, while the carriages passed before them, to enable the occupants to review the troops.

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time the first shaft has been designated the "Greene" monument.

Although it had been standing since 1829, the "Greene" monument had no tablets on it, or any inscription whatever. On May 10, 1871, Alderman Ferrill introduced a resolution, which was adopted, to secure an estimate of the cost of suitably inscribed plates. There the matter stopped until on August 20, 1879, when a committee of three was appointed to take into consideration the unfinished condition of the monument and devise some method for its completion, the Georgia Historical Society being asked to co-operate. Nothing further was done for nearly four years.

In March, 1883, General Henry Jackson, president of the Georgia Historical Society, wrote to council requesting the appointment of a committee to act with a committee from the Historical Society relative to the completion of the monument. Mayor Lester and Aldermen Wilder, Thomas, Hanley, and Mell were appointed. On July 1, 1885, Aldermen Duncan and Hamlet were appointed to fill vacancies on this committee. On September 23, a communication was received from the joint committee transmitting a resolution from the Georgia Historical Society requesting an appropriation of \$500 by council, the other \$500 necessary for the memorial tablets to be raised by private contributions. October 7 an appropria-







Invited Guests at the Exercises at the Greene Monument, Savannah, Ga., November 14, 1902.



On the east side of Johnson Square the carriages were stopped, and their occupants, alighting, made their way to the platform erected near the monument. There they took the seats<sup>2</sup> that had been reserved for them, and the exercises began, the troops remaining massed on

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tion of \$500 was made. In the next July the tablets were unveiled with appropriate ceremonies, the Chatham Artillery firing the salute. Part of the \$500 appropriated by the city was returned by Treasurer D. R. Thomas of the Monument Tablet Committee.

The tablet on the south side has a bas relief full length figure of General Greene, while the tablet on the north side has this inscription:

“ Major-General  
NATHANAEL  
GREENE  
born in Rhode Island  
1742  
died in Georgia 1786.

Soldier, Patriot,  
and friend of  
WASHINGTON.

This shaft  
has been reared by the  
PEOPLE OF SAVANNAH  
in honor  
of his great services  
to the  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.”

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix I.

Bull street. Throughout the long programme the troops had to stand; not a sound from the scene of the exercises reached them, and they were in total ignorance as to what might have been transpiring; yet the order was complete as though they were drawn up for inspection.

In the square and all about it were crowds of people. The steps and portico of Christ Church were thronged, as were the windows, the piazzas, and even the roof of the Screven house. Windows of other neighboring buildings offered their contributions of interested faces.

General William W. Gordon had charge of the formal exercises. The Rt. Rev. Cleland K. Nelson, bishop of Georgia, offered prayer as follows:

“Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

“Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

“ Almighty and everliving God, we yield unto Thee most high praise and hearty thanks, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all Thy saints, who have been the choice vessels of Thy grace, and the lights of the world in their several generations; most humbly beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow the example of their steadfastness in Thy faith, and obedience to Thy holy commandments, that at the day of the general Resurrection, we, with all those who are of the mystical body of Thy Son, may be set on His right hand, and hear that His most joyful voice: ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

“ O God, Whose days are without end, and Whose mercies cannot be numbered; make us, we beseech Thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let Thy Holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives: that when we shall have served Thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic

Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in a comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favor with Thee, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Then the remains were placed in the vault that had been formed beneath the flag-stones on the south side of the monument. The artillerymen, serving as pall bearers, brought up the receptacle, and workmen lowered it into the vault.

At the conclusion of this part of the ceremony, Mrs. Edward Karow, regent of the Savannah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, unveiled a bronze tablet<sup>1</sup> which Savannah Chapter had caused to be placed upon the monument, indicating the place of burial of the remains, and addressing Alder-

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<sup>1</sup> The design of this tablet is a wreath of laurel tied at the top with a ribbon; within the scroll formed by the ends of the ribbon is the insignia of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the wheel and the distaff, below this, partly covered by the wreath, is a tablet, on which is inscribed:

"To commemorate the re-interment of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, beneath this shaft, on November 14, 1902. This tablet was erected by the Savannah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution."



MRS. EDWARD KAROW,  
Savannah, Ga.

Regent, Savannah Chapter, Daughters of the American  
Revolution.



man Robert L. Colding, representing the municipality, said :

“ Sir, as regent of the Savannah Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, I have the honor to entrust to your care this tablet, which we have placed here in commemoration of these solemn and impressive rites — a symbol of our love and veneration for Major-General Nathanael Greene, the patriot soldier of Rhode Island, the saviour of the South from British tyranny. Savannah is fortunate to hold within her bosom the precious dust of this great captain of the Revolution, while his immortal spirit will forever animate the hearts of Americans with a deathless love of liberty.”

In accepting the tablet on behalf of the city, Alderman Colding said :

“ Mrs. Karow, to you and the ladies you represent, I can only say, in behalf of the citizens of Savannah, whose humble representative I am upon this occasion, that we accept the beautiful tablet you have placed upon this monument, and desire to thank you for your kind thoughtfulness.

“The ashes of an oak in a chimney are no epitaph of that to tell me how high or how large that was; it tells me not what flocks it sheltered while it stood, nor what men it hurt when it fell. The dust of great men’s graves is speechless, too. It says nothing, it distinguishes nothing. As soon the dust of a wretch whom you wouldst not, as of a prince whom thou couldst not, look upon, will trouble thine eyes if the wind blow it thither; and when the whirlwind has blown the dust of the church-yard into the church, and the man sweeps out the dust of the church into the church-yard, who will undertake to sift those dusts again, and to pronounce, This is the patrician; this is the noble flower, and this the yeoman; this the plebeian bran?

“The world, with its throbbing pulse, and quickening pace, passes rapidly; alas, too rapidly, in its efforts to advance over the graves of the departed with scarce a glance of recognition. It does not for a moment pause to inquire if the sleeper, in an unmarked and unkept grave, in his day and generation added to the sum of human happiness; whether as a gallant warrior he illustrated his country’s honor upon battlefields; whether by his wise





BASE OF GREENE MONUMENT, JOHNSON SQUARE, SAVANNAH, GA.

Showing tablets and the tribute from Rhode Island on the occasion of the re-interment of the remains of Gen. Greene, November 14, 1902.



counsel he assisted in shaping his country's destiny ; or whether, as a poor wretched vagabond, he lived and died amidst the shadow of obscurity and want.

" It is, therefore, eminently proper that the ashes of the illustrious patriot whose memory we all revere should rest beneath this granite shaft, erected to his memory by a grateful people in recognition of distinguished services and sterling worth.

" He, whose remains are to find a permanent resting place beneath this spot, although he passed away over a century ago, yet, in the deeds he wrought and in the example he has left us as a legacy, is one of the brightest gems in the crown of our country's glory.

" We accept this gift. May the trust be well reposed and the confidence secure."

At this point in the exercises, His Excellency Governor Kimball, of Rhode Island, advanced, while the tribute from Rhode Island was placed upon the monument. This consisted of a large wreath of bronze galex, crossed with cycus palms, tied with rich purple ribbon on which were embossed in gold the arms of the State. Standing upon a tripod, the wreath

occupied a place at the base of the monument throughout the ceremonies.

"America" was then rendered by the band, after which Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, L.L.D., L. H. D., president of the Rhode Island Society of the Cincinnati, the orator of the occasion, delivered the address.<sup>1</sup>

*Mr. Chairman and Ladies and Gentlemen:*

We are assembled here to-day, with official representatives from the States of Rhode Island and Georgia, to render final honors to the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, now about to be deposited under this beautiful monument erected many years ago by patriotic citizens to commemorate his splendid military services in the eight years of war for American independence.

The limits of this address will permit but brief reference to Nathanael Greene's life and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Nathanael Greene, an address by Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, L.L. D., L. H. D., president of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Savannah, Ga., November 14, 1902, on the occasion of the re-interment of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, and of his eldest son, George Washington Greene, under the monument in Johnson Square.



HON. ASA BIRD GARDINER, LL.D., LH.D.



He belonged to a family of great antiquity and respectability in Northamptonshire, England, and was descended from a cadet branch which, early in the reign of Henry VIII, had its seat at Bowridge Hill, Gillingham Parish, Dorsetshire.

His first ancestor in America, from whom he was the fifth in descent, was Surgeon John Greene, who married Joan Tattershall, at St. Thomas church, in Salisbury, November 4, 1619, being styled "Gentleman" in the church records—and came, with his family, to Boston, in the ship "James," from Southampton, where he arrived on June 5, 1635.

In the following year Surgeon John Greene became one of the historic founders, with Roger Williams, of the colony of Providence Plantations; and ever since the family of Greene has been one of the highest in respectability and distinction in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Nathanael Greene, Jr., whose memory we to-day honor, was the second son of Nathanael Greene, Sr., who was a preacher in the Society of Friends and also the owner of a large farm, grist, flour, and saw mill and of an anchor forge.

He was born in Potowomut, Kent county, Rhode Island, on July 27, 1742, old style, or August 7, 1742, new style; and his earlier years were passed alternately on the farm, in the mills, and at the forge.

By his own exertions he acquired a thorough knowledge of Euclid, and at the same time did his daily tasks so well that his father gave him a latin master from whom he obtained a good knowledge of logic, *belles-lettres*, and the classics.

As a latin scholar he became remarkably proficient, and took particular pleasure in reading in the original the latin poets—particularly Horace.

In 1760 he studied law, in order to follow up more intelligently a law suit in which his father was engaged, and commenced by familiarizing himself with Blackstone's Commentaries.

From Plutarch and Rollin he obtained his knowledge of Greek and Roman history, and from Hume and Rapin his acquaintance with English history.

Such unusual diligence and perseverance in acquiring an education by his own efforts gave him a local reputation in that particular; and when he removed to Coventry, Rhode Island,



in 1770, where a branch of the iron works had been established, his reputation as an unusually scholarly and thoughtful man followed him.

One of his first acts in his new home was to take measures toward the establishment of a school.

In the same year he was elected a deputy from that town to the Rhode Island Colonial General Assembly, where he at once took a prominent position, and was afterward chosen to the same office in 1771 and 1775.

Foreseeing, with profound knowledge of political events, that the dispute between Great Britain and the thirteen American colonies must ere long be brought to the arbitrament of the sword, he sought to prepare himself for the clash of arms.

For this purpose, although a conforming member of the Society of Friends, whose tenets forbid war, he purchased, when in Boston, of a British deserter, a flint-lock musket, still preserved in Rhode Island, and, on October 21, 1774, became a private in the Kentish Guards, an independent uniformed infantry company chartered by the colony, and diligently set to work not only to learn the school of the soldier

and company, but the art of war including grand tactics and logistics.

Soon his associate members, as well as the deputies in the colonial legislature, discovered that there was no one in the colony as well posted on military subjects or who exhibited sounder judgment or greater sagacity.

On April 22, 1775, he was chosen by the colonial legislature one of a committee to proceed to Connecticut and consult with the General Assembly of that colony on measures of common defence.

His action, in joining the Kentish Guards, so contrary to the principles of the Society of Friends, resulted in his dismissal therefrom after a deputation had waited upon him with a view to induce him, by persuasion and remonstrance, to quit his military associates.

On May 8, 1775, the Rhode Island General Assembly appointed him to be brigadier-general of the Rhode Island "Army of Observation," comprising three regiments of infantry and a company of artillery; and on June 2, 1775, he proceeded to the siege of Boston and witnessed the battle of "Bunker Hill," although not engaged.

On June 22, 1775, the Continental Congress

at Philadelphia appointed him a brigadier-general in the Continental line and, on June 30, took the Rhode Island Brigade onto the regular Continental establishment.

At once his brigade took first rank in discipline and efficiency, and it was the only brigade at that memorable siege which was fully supplied with camp and garrison equipage and properly subsisted.

The siege terminated, on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1776, by evacuation of Boston by the British army under General Sir William Howe; but during the long months in cantonments, Washington learned to have the most perfect confidence in and regard for Greene.

It was at this early period in his military career that Colonel Timothy Pickering, who had been present at a general court-martial of which Greene was president and had listened to his remarks and questions, made the prophetic statement that he was a man of "true military genius."

On April 1, 1775, pursuant to General Washington's orders, he marched with his brigade, via Providence to New York city to assist in its defence against the expected arrival of the British army from Nova Scotia, and was a

few days later assigned to fortify Brooklyn Heights.

On August 9, 1776, he was promoted by Congress to be a major-general in the Continental army.

Taken violently ill with camp fever on August 15, 1776, he had to relinquish command on Long Island.

Later he was in the battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776, and bore a conspicuous part, and afterward in the battle of White Plains.

Already the whole Continental army began to recognize that Greene possessed consummate military ability.

It was at this time, on October 2, 1776, that the Honorable William Duer, one of the Committee on Correspondence of the New York State Convention, wrote to Lieutenant-Colonel Tench Tilghman, aide-de-camp to Washington, concerning Greene, and said :

“ I am much mistaken if he is not possessed of that Heaven born genius which is necessary to constitute a great general.”

He was with Washington in his retreat through the Jerseys, and, in the passage of the

Delaware river, mid ice, snow, and sleet, and memorable capture of the Hessians at Trenton, December 26, 1776, he commanded the left wing of the main Continental army.

On January 2, 1777, his division bore the brunt of the fight at Assunpink bridge, Trenton, against Earl Cornwallis, and the next day participated in the battle of Princeton, and thence marched with the army to the Heights of Morristown, which forced the British to evacuate all the Jerseys except New Brunswick and Amboy.

So impressed had Washington become with his prudence and capacity, that, on March 18, 1777, he sent him to Philadelphia to confer with the Continental Congress relative to exchange of prisoners of war, the forwarding of supplies, and matters which he did not dare trust to paper; and in his letter of introduction, addressed to the president of Congress he said, as to Greene, as follows:

“ He is an able and good officer in the estimation of all who know him; he deserves the greatest respect.”

On May 12, 1777, General Washington sent him to the Hudson river, as president of a

board of general officers, to determine what obstructions would be necessary to prevent the enemy obtaining its control.

In the following month he commanded three brigades which, preceded by Colonel Daniel Morgan's riflemen, attacked the Hessian force, when it evacuated New Brunswick, and pursued it several miles toward Amboy.

In the battle of Brandywine he showed his great military capacity; for, although stationed with the left wing, he made a forced march of four miles in forty-five minutes, with Brigadier-General George Weedon's brigade, of his division, and interposed between the routed right wing of the American army and the exultant advancing British, checking the movement, after a close action of an hour and a quarter, and saving the park of artillery and enabling the American army to be withdrawn from the field.

In the battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777, he commanded and led the left wing, which, having encountered and routed a part of the British right wing, entered the village and made a number of prisoners.

A few days after this battle, Light Horse Harry Lee, then captain in the 1st Regiment



Tablet placed by Savannah Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution,  
on Greene Monument, Johnson Square, Savannah, Ga.





Continental Light Dragoons, on escort duty at army headquarters, wrote that "Greene was a general whose uniform conduct had already placed him high in the confidence of his chief and of the army."

Washington, a few days later, in a letter to Greene, dated October 26, 1777, subscribed it "with sincere regard and affection."

In November he was sent, with his division, into New Jersey, to support the forces holding Fort Mercer, on the Delaware, against the movements of his old antagonist, Earl Cornwallis; but, as the fort had been necessarily evacuated, after a heroic and successful defence by the two Rhode Island regiments under Colonel Christopher Greene against Count Donop, Major-General Greene rejoined, with all the American troops, the main army and participated in the operations at Whitemarsh, 5th-8th December, 1777, when Sir William Howe confidently marched out of Philadelphia, with his whole army, in expectation of defeating and destroying "Mr. Washington's army." Then followed the unparalleled sufferings and privations of the patriots at Valley Forge.

On May 2, 1778, Congress appointed Greene to be quartermaster-general of the

army, but to retain his rank. This office he accepted with extreme reluctance, and only at Washington's urgent request.

When the British army evacuated Philadelphia, Washington gave him command of the second line of the main army, which saved the day at the battle of Monmouth after the first line, under Major-General Charles Lee, fell back by that general's orders.

A few days later, Major James McHenry, of Maryland, military secretary to Washington, and afterward Secretary of War under President John Adams, in a letter dated "Camp near New Brunswick, July 1, 1778," said, as to Greene, that he "gave the most evident and unequivocal marks of great military worth; his dispositions were judicious, his judgment cool and clear, and his bravery always pointed and efficacious."

Ordered by General Washington to Rhode Island on July 27, 1778, Greene there performed his staff duties until assigned by Major-General John Sullivan to the command of the right wing of the American army at the siege of Newport and subsequent splendid battle of Rhode Island, August 29, 1778, against Major-General Robert Pigots's superior forces. For

his services here, Sullivan thanked him "most sincerely," and in his official report to Congress said:

"Major-General Greene, who commanded in the attack on the right, did himself the highest honor by the judgment and bravery he exhibited in the action."

In October, 1778, Greene was relieved from command of the forces on the western shore of Narragansett Bay, to enable him to rejoin the main army under Washington and resume his functions as quartermaster-general, and he served with it at West Point and in the Jerseys.

By direction of General Washington, he was assigned to and commanded the division which fought the successful battle of Springfield, N. J., June 23, 1780, against Lieutenant-General Baron de Knyphausen, who had marched from Amboy with a strong force, and compelled him to retire.

As usual, Greene was thanked for this brilliant service by General Washington, in general orders dated "Army Headquarters, Sufferns, June 26, 1780."

On August 5, 1780, Greene resigned the

office of quartermaster-general, and was thanked by General Washington, in general orders ( Army Headquarters, Orangetown, September 30, 1780), "for the able and satisfactory manner in which he had discharged the duties."

On September 29, 1780, Greene was detailed as president of the board of general officers, which was compelled under the laws of war to find Major John Andre, adjutant-general of the British army, "a spy from the enemy."

Fearing an immediate attack on West Point, Washington's confidence in Greene's patriotism was signally displayed in appointing him to its command in place of Major-General Benedict Arnold, who had deserted to the enemy.

We have now reached, in the career of this very great man, that point of time when he was, for the first, given an independent command and enabled to conduct a campaign which still can be studied by the military student with as much profit as those of Hannibal, Cæsar, Marlborough, Frederick the Great, or Napoleon Bonaparte.

On October 14, 1780, Greene was appointed

to the command of the military department of the south.

His late grandson, Professor George Washington Greene, LL. D., has aptly depicted the southern situation at that time. Said he :

“ England, unable to subdue her colonies by the north, turned her arms against the south.

“ Savannah fell an easy conquest. Lincoln held out thirty days in Charleston against the combined forces of Clinton and Arbuthnot, but was compelled to capitulate.

“ Gates, with the fresh laurels of Saratoga on his brow, was sent to hold them in check, but was crushed at Camden.

“ Whom shall we send next, was the anxious question ?

“ The country and the army answered,—  
‘ Greene.’

“ ‘ I think I am sending you a general,’ wrote Washington to a southern friend, ‘ but what can a general do without men, without arms, without clothing, without stores, without provisions?’

“ And following the same train of thought, he wrote to Governor Lee, of Maryland :

“ ‘ The entire confidence I have in the abilities, fortitude, and integrity of General Greene, founded on a long and intimate experience of them, assures me that he will do every thing

his means will enable him to do, and I doubt not that candid allowances will be made for the peculiar difficulties he has to encounter.

“‘I recommend him to your State as worthy of the utmost confidence and support, and to Your Excellency in particular, as one whom I rank among the number of my friends.’”

On his way south, Greene passed through Richmond, Va., where he left Major-General Baron de Steuben to forward supplies and recruits. On December 3, 1780, at Charlotte, N. C., he assumed command.

Of two thousand three hundred and seven men there in camp, only eight hundred were properly equipped and fit for duty.

Major-General Gates had intended to go into winter quarters at that place, but Greene felt that such a proceeding would be disheartening to the command, and accordingly ordered a forward movement to Cheraw Hill, near the Pedee and just within the borders of South Carolina.

Lieutenant-General Earl Cornwallis was, however, advancing with a number of veteran British and Hessian regiments, including a brigade consisting of the Household Guards, the flower of the English army, composed of the

Grenadiers, Scots Fusileers, and Coldstream Battalions of Guards.

In order to harass and annoy him, Greene detached Brigadier-General Daniel Morgan for the skillful movement on Cornwallis's left flank which resulted in the brilliant victory of the Cowpens, S. C., January 17, 1781, and complete rout of Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton, most of whose force was captured.

Then began the masterly retreat, a distance of two hundred and thirty miles, one of the finest in all history, which lured Cornwallis from his base.

Galled in his pride and crippled in his Legionary Cavalry by Tarleton's disaster, the British commander resolved on the most energetic measures to retrieve the loss, and accordingly destroyed all his heavy baggage and stores, as well as the kits of officers and men at Ramsour's Mills, which eventually proved fatal to British efficiency.

It may properly be said, that not even the retreat of the ten thousand Greeks, nor General Moreau's retreat through the defiles of Germany, which called forth the admiration and applause of Europe, equal in importance

or consequent results the retreat of the American detachment under Daniel Morgan.

Greene, divining the intentions of Cornwallis, put his main army on the march northward for Salisbury, under Brigadier-General Isaac Huger; and himself, escorted by a few dragoons, set out across a hostile territory, infested with tories, to join Morgan, which he did on January 30, 1781, at Sherrald's Ford on the east bank of the Catawba, shortly after Morgan had crossed.

So eager and rapid was Cornwallis's advance that he arrived shortly after on the Catawba, only to find it suddenly swollen by reason of a copious rainfall, and for two days he was detained on its western bank before being able to cross at the fords. This circumstance was considered by many pious people as a direct interposition of divine Providence in the cause of American independence.

Meanwhile, Greene despatched the prisoners northward in charge of a detachment of militia.

As soon as the Catawba began to be fordable, February 1, 1781, the Morgan detachment under Greene fell back. Much rain having fallen, and the roads, being at all times







Caisson of the Chatham Artillery with Remains of Gen. Greene and Guard of Honor. Savannah, Ga., November 14, 1902

bad, and consisting of a tough, red clay, became nearly impassable. Nevertheless, Greene pushed his retreat and crossed the Yadkin, a broad and rapid river, fifty miles from the Catawba, on the night of the next day. So close was the pursuit that the rear guard was fired upon just as it had embarked in the last boats, but got off safely. As Greene had secured all the boats, and the river was swollen with rains, Cornwallis was again detained.

Meanwhile, Greene had sent orders to Isaac Huger to take the main army to Guilford Court House instead of to Salisbury.

Cornwallis now saw that the object he had had in view had been frustrated by the genius of Greene, viz.: the destruction of Morgan's detachment, and prevention of its union with the main army.

On February 7, 1781, the Morgan detachment joined the main southern army.

Cornwallis was approaching by forced marches, and further retreat became a military necessity.

With excellent judgment, Greene planned the passage of the river Dan at Irwin's Ferry, a point most advantageous, so that his whole force was across on the evening of February

13, 1781, and the pursuit of twenty-six days terminated.

We can fancy Cornwallis's mortification and rage at thus being completely frustrated in his plans.

At this time the Continental currency had depreciated so enormously as practically to have lost all purchasing quality. Never before had the ability of Congress to carry on the war been so low. Major-General Greene's army, even his regulars, were almost wholly without supplies.

The retreat, so successfully conducted, was made under unparalleled difficulties. It was through a sparsely settled country, almost wholly tory, and ready to deceive with false information. The subsistence procured was barely enough to sustain life. The men's clothing was in rags, and their shoes worn out; so that, in the language of Greene, when writing to Washington, "Many hundreds of the soldiers tracked the ground with their bloody feet." The weather was cold and tempestuous, with alternate rain, snow, and sleet, and the rough roads almost impassable. In the command there were no tents nor overcoats, and but one blanket to every four men.

Nevertheless they trudged cheerfully on, enduring every privation with renewed fortitude because they had unbounded confidence in their commanding general.

The contrast to Lord Cornwallis's army was indeed striking, as they were well clothed and well armed and equipped and provided for.

Washington wrote to Greene, and said: "You may be assured that your retreat before Cornwallis is highly applauded by all ranks, and reflects much honor on your military abilities."

As Greene, by crossing the Dan, had temporarily abandoned North Carolina, Cornwallis set up the royal standard at Hillsboro, and called on the tories, of which there were many, to join him.

Apparently North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia were wholly under British domination, and once more crown colonies.

Although the Southern American army, while awaiting reinforcements and supplies from Richmond, Va., was too weak in numbers for offensive operations, Greene was not disheartened. He wrote to Washington, and said: "I will recover the country or die in the attempt."

On February 17, 1781, the morning report of the American army showed, as fit for duty, only 1,078 infantry, 64 artillerymen, 176 cavalry, and 112 legionary infantry, or 1,430 in all.

Now began a series of movements unmatched in military history. Greene recognized the great abilities of Cornwallis. He had studied him at Assunpink Creek, and in the Jerseys, and recognized that he was one of Britain's greatest and most energetic generals.

The Tories, complying with Cornwallis's proclamation, formed themselves into a battalion of about five hundred militia horse, under Colonel John Pyle, and marched for Hillsboro.

Greene, in the determination to harass Cornwallis, detached Brigadier-General Andrew Pickens, with some North Carolina militia, and Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Lee's Battalion of the Continental Legion, for this purpose.

So anxious was he that there should be no mistake, that on the night of February 21, 1781, Greene, with a daring approaching recklessness, crossed the Dan under escort of a small detachment of dragoons, and visited these two partisan officers, and spent most of





SOUTH SIDE OF GREENE MONUMENT, JOHNSON SQUARE, SAVANNAH, GA.

The spot where the remains of Gen. Greene are buried is indicated  
by the wreath and tablet at the base,





the night in anxious consultation, and then returned in safety across the Dan.

Upon information that Tarleton, who had once more got a command together of cavalry, with four hundred infantry and two pieces of artillery, had left Hillsboro in the direction of Haw river, west, to intercept approaching American reinforcements under Colonel William Campbell, of King's Mountain fame, Pickens started to overtake and attack him, but found that he had crossed Haw river at noon of February 25. However, they captured two of his officers who had lingered behind.

While in the great road, eight miles west of Hillsboro, the command unexpectedly encountered Colonel Pyle's mounted tory force, and at once attacked and utterly destroyed it. Tarleton's command was only a couple of miles in advance, and Pickens proposed to attack it at daylight; but during the night, urgent orders came to Tarleton from Cornwallis to return at once, and he decamped in great haste at 2 A. M., followed by Pickens, who saw Tarleton's command enter Hillsboro.

The sanguinary destruction of Pyle's command struck terror to the tories throughout the south, and Cornwallis got no recruits.

As for Tarleton, he seems to have acquired such a wholesome dread and respect for the American Continentals that his subsequent services in the Carolinas ceased to be brilliant or successful.

On February 23, 1781, Greene, having determined to hold Cornwallis in check, recrossed the Dan, on the tenth day after his celebrated retreat. As yet the expected reinforcements had not arrived, and he was consequently unable to fight a battle.

Between the Haw and Deep rivers was an extensive and thickly populated settlement of tories, and, in order to overawe them, Greene encamped in their midst.

Now began a series of masterly maneuvers for ten days which puzzled, harassed, and irritated Cornwallis, whose foraging parties were cut off and camp insulted, and reinforcements hacked to pieces.

At last the long-expected troops and supplies reached Greene, at High Rock Ford on the Haw river, on Sunday, March 11, 1781, and four days later he fought the battle of Guilford Court House, a most sanguinary one, in which the British killed and wounded amounted to one third of Cornwallis's entire

force, including many valued officers. Both sides intuitively recognized the stake for which they were contending, and fought to win. Greene was constantly under fire, directing and animating his troops.

Cornwallis held the ground, and Greene leisurely retreated to Reedy Ford and then fainted, and for a while was unconscious from exhaustion from long and arduous labors. He wrote to his wife, after the battle, that he had not taken off his clothes for six weeks.

Two days after the battle, on March 17, Cornwallis, having buried his dead, placed those of his wounded in New Garden meeting house of the Society of Friends, under a flag of truce, commending them in a letter to Greene's care, and then hastened to put the Deep river between himself and his adversary, and burn the bridge, and marched with all speed to Wilmington on the coast, where transports awaited him with supplies. Greene pursued only as far as Ramsey's mill, on Deep river. Victory may be said to be the successful issue of a struggle for superiority and control.

Maréchal de France, le Comte de Rochambeau, says, in his memoirs, that Greene's con-

duct in his previous retreat to the Dan, and in the battle of Guilford Court House, "did him great honor and fully justified the brilliant talent of which he afterward gave proof."

Greene now determined upon a movement which stamped him as one of the very greatest military commanders of the eighteenth century.

Instead of continuing after Cornwallis, he deliberately turned to South Carolina.

Alexander Hamilton, Aide-de-Camp to Washington, in his memorial address on Greene, on July 4, 1789, at St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway, before the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, in referring to this march southward, said:

"This was one of those strokes that denote superior genius and constitute the sublime of war. It was Scipio leaving Hannibal in Italy to overcome him at Carthage!

"The success was answerable to the judicious boldness of the design. The enemy were divested of their acquisitions in South Carolina and Georgia with a rapidity which, if not ascertained, would be scarcely credible. In the short space of two months all their posts in the interior of the country were reduced.

“The perseverance, courage, enterprise, and resource displayed by the American general, in the course of these events, commanded the admiration even of his enemies. In vain was he defeated in one mode of obtaining his object; another was instantly substituted that answered the end. In vain was he repulsed before a besieged fortress; he immediately found other means of compelling the defenders to relinquish their stronghold.”

The limits of this address will not permit detailed reference to other actions.

The late Colonel Creasy did not include “Guilford Court House” as one of the fifteen decisive battles of the world, but it properly belongs in that category. It was the decisive battle of the southern campaign, followed, actually and logically, by Cornwallis’s subsequent capitulation, with his army, at Yorktown, and in its results enabled the American general to rescue three great States, an empire in themselves, from British domination.

Deep despondency among the whigs gave place to high exultation and earnest patriotic endeavor.

On April 19, 1781, Greene took post at Hobkirk’s Hill, near Camden, in South Carolina, where, on the next day, he was attacked

by Lord Rawdon and compelled to quit the field in good order, after a hard fought battle, and then began to prepare for the investment of Rawdon himself, in Camden, but the British general speedily evacuated on May 9th.

Forts Watson, Motte, Granby, and the post of Orangeburg and Forts Galphin, Grierson, and Cornwallis, capitulated in quick succession to the Americans, while two other posts were promptly evacuated.

The "Siege of Ninety-Six" failed because reinforcements arrived; but Greene's combinations were such that it could not be longer held by the British, and was promptly evacuated. Greene then moved to the historic encampment on the High Hills of Santee, to give his command needed rest.

Congress had now become profoundly impressed with his extraordinary ability, and on July 25, 1781, in referring to these events, said they afforded "such proofs of his judgment, vigilance, and firmness as to recommend him to the entire approbation of Congress."

On September 8, 1781, he fought the bloody battle of Eutaw Springs, which practically terminated British power in the Carolinas; and Brigadier-General Anthony Wayne, whom he

sent to Georgia, soon forced the evacuation of that State.

Congress, on October 29, 1781, thanked Greene for "his wise, decisive, and magnanimous conduct" in the victory at Eutaw Springs, and directed the presentation to him of a British standard and a gold medal.

On December 14, 1782, the British army evacuated Charleston, S. C., their last station in the south, and Greene rode in at the head of the American army.

The indomitable perseverance of this great commander may be surmised from a letter he wrote, just at the close of active campaigning, in which he said: "I have been seven months in the field without taking my clothes off one night."

On January 17, 1783, Congress again thanked Greene "for his many signal and important services," and informed him of the lively sense they entertained of the frequent and uniform proofs he "had given of prudence, wisdom, and military skill during his command."

On April 22, 1783, cessation of hostilities having been officially proclaimed, Greene reviewed the Continental troops and gave a din-



ner in cantonments on James Island, S. C., to the Governor of South Carolina, members of legislature, and officers and citizens of distinction. Many ladies were present including his own wife.

The eighth toast of the thirteen which he announced was: "May the spirit of Union prevail in the United States."

On August 15, 1783, he relinquished command of the southern department to Major-General William Moultrie and journeyed northward, visiting Congress at Princeton and Washington at army headquarters.

On October 18, 1783, Congress gave him leave of absence, and resolved that two pieces of field ordnance taken from the British at the Cowpens, Augusta, or Eutaw, be presented to him "as a public testimonial of the wisdom, fortitude, and military skill which distinguished his command in the southern department, and of the eminent services which amidst complicated difficulties and dangers, and against an enemy greatly superior in numbers, he has successfully performed for his country."

The legislature of the State of South Carolina gave him 10,000 guineas, and that of



North Carolina gave him 5,000 guineas and 25,000 acres of land, while that of Georgia gave him 5,000 guineas and 24,000 acres.

In this latter grant was subsequently included the confiscated plantation of Mulberry Grove, on the Savannah river, about twelve miles above Savannah, formerly the property of the Honorable John Graham, the tory Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, and the deed of cession bears date March 5, 1785.

In November, 1783, he arrived at his home in Rhode Island, after an absence, in public service, of over eight years,

On December 23, 1783, the Rhode Island Continental officers of the Revolution met in the Senate chamber of the State house, Providence, R. I., to permanently organize the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati.

Greene was then chosen president, and was annually re-elected every year until his decease.

He was active in its interests, as his letters to Washington and others show.

Three days later, on December 26, 1783, the Governor and General Assembly of Rhode Island officially referred to his brilliant military

conduct and achievements, "and their unabating affection."

The next two years were, to Greene, years of tribulation and sorrow.

To procure supplies for his destitute command he had pledged his private fortune, and the Continental Congress of the Confederation was in no situation to relieve him.

The generous donations, however, of the southern States brought him relief.

In 1784-5 he was at the south, and trying to arrange his affairs; but on June 25, 1785, he arrived at his home in Newport, R. I., by packet, from Charleston, S. C.

On July 4th, 1785, he presided over the meeting of the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati in the Senate chamber, State house, Newport, and on October 14, 1785, set sail with his family for his plantation at Mulberry Grove.

Here on June 19, 1786, he died suddenly of a congestive chill, due to exposure in the fields under a hot sun, and the next day was buried, with military and civic honors, in the newly erected and previously unused Graham vault in the Colonial cemetery in Savannah, the

Georgia State Society of the Cincinnati being the chief mourners.

On August 8, 1786, Congress decreed a monument "In honor of his patriotism, valor, and ability," and on June 23, 1874, that the statue should be an equestrian statue. This was erected in Sherman square, Washington, in 1877.

Congress had previously, on July 2, 1864, invited every State to furnish two statues for the old hall of the House of Representatives. One of the two prescribed by Rhode Island was that of Nathanael Greene, and the late United States Senator Henry B. Anthony, of that State, in presenting it on behalf of Rhode Island, said :

"Among those who, in the Revolutionary period, won titles to the national gratitude, never disavowed, he whose statue we have placed in the Capitol stands in the judgment of his contemporaries and by the assent of history second only to the man who towers without a peer in the annals of America."

Archdeacon Cyrus Brady, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, in the preface to a recent romance entitled "When Blades are out and Love's Afield," says :

"Next to Washington, this New England blacksmith, who so highly educated himself that for relaxation he read the Latin poets in the original by the light of the camp fire, stands as the most brilliant soldier-strategist, tactician, and fighter of the Revolution. . . . And his character was as great as his genius."

When he died, Anthony Wayne, who was with him, wrote a hasty note to the authorities of Savannah, and said :

"He was great as a soldier, greater as a citizen, immaculate as a friend, . . . The honors, the greatest honors, of war are due to his remains. . . . Pardon this scrawl, my feelings are too much affected because I have seen a great and good man die."

Washington, in announcing his decease to Rochambeau, in July, 1786, said: "He was a great and good man indeed." And, in a letter from Mount Vernon to Thomas Jefferson, dated August 1, 1786, said: "You will, in common with your countrymen, have regretted a loss of so great and so honest a man."

Washington, in a letter to Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth, dated October 22, 1786, offered at his "own cost and expense to educate his





COLONIAL PARK, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

Showing tomb in which remains were found before tablet was unveiled, November 14, 1902.

namesake, George Washington Greene," who was then in his eleventh year.

This plan was carried out, and the lad was sent to the care of Lafayette until the French Revolution.

The Cincinnati of Georgia, as a token of "high respect and veneration" for the memory of Major-General Greene, resolved that his eldest son, George Washington Greene, should be admitted an hereditary member on arriving at the age of eighteen years; but unfortunately, before that date, the young man was accidentally drowned in the Savannah river, off Mulberry Grove, on March 28, 1793, and his body deposited with his father's in the Graham vault.

Here they remained until last year, and now are to be re-interred, with fitting honors, under the beautiful monument in Johnson square, the first one erected to Greene's memory. This is the general wish of his descendants, and the legislature of Rhode Island, by fitting representation from their body, with the Governor of that State, are present to assist in this patriotic act.

The presence of official representatives of the State of Georgia and city of Savannah are



proper acknowledgment of Greene's potential services to the cause of the south.

My duty is now done.

Chief Justice John Marshall called pointed attention to the fact that even when Greene did not gain a decisive victory "he obtained to a considerable extent, even when defeated, the object for which he fought," and if the field of his southern operations is now dispassionately studied it will be perceived that, in the end, he always, by indomitable American perseverance, sagacity, and energy, obtained what he sought.

Alexander Hamilton, in his wonderful oration in 1789, before referred to, before the New York Cincinnati, said, as to Greene :

"It required a longer life, and still greater opportunities, to have enabled him to exhibit in full day, the vast, I had almost said the *enormous*, powers of his mind."

This monument, which will now have beneath it the remains of one of America's greatest and best citizens, will be an incentive to the rising generation to emulate his example in patriotism, perseverance, energy, attention to duty, and honesty of character.



"The lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime ;  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Foot-prints on the sands of time."

Upon the conclusion of Colonel Gardiner's address the "Star Spangled Banner" was played by the band, after which Bishop Nelson pronounced the benediction :

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, both now and evermore. Amen."

Thus, with impressive and dignified ceremonies, were laid away, in their final resting place, the honored remains of that noble citizen and great soldier, Nathanael Greene, of Rhode Island.

Far from the scene of his birth and that State with which his name will ever be associated, the people of that beautiful southern city, in the State of his adoption, testified to their appreciation of his great qualities as a citizen and a soldier, and did full honor to his memory.

## Appendix A.

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AN ACT TO DESCRIBE THE LANDS GRANTED TO  
MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANIEL GREENE, AND  
TO CONFIRM THE TITLE THEREOF IN THE  
SAID NATHANIEL GREENE, HIS HEIRS AND  
ASSIGNS FOREVER.

Whereas the general assembly by an act passed in April and May session, seventeen hundred and eighty-two, entitled, "An act for the relief of the officers and soldiers in the continental line, and for other purposes therein mentioned," did allot and give to the said Nathaniel Greene, his heirs and assigns, twenty-five thousand acres of land, as a mark of their high sense of the extraordinary services of the said Nathaniel Greene; and directed the same to be laid off by the commissioners by the said act appointed, within the bounds of the lands reserved for the use of the army; and whereas Absalom Tatom, Isaac Shelby, and Anthony Bledsoe, commissioners appointed by the said act to examine and superintend the laying off the lands reserved for the use of the army, in pursuance of the said act; and agreeable thereto did lay off and survey, or cause to be laid off and surveyed, twenty-five thousand acres of land for the said Nathaniel Greene, a plat of which was duly returned, and now is among the public papers, bounded as fol-

lows : beginning on the south bank of Duck river, on a sycamore, cherry-tree and ash, at the mouth of a small branch ; running thence along a line of marked trees, south seven miles and forty-eight poles to two Spanish oaks, a hickory and sugar sapling, thence east six miles and ninety poles to a Spanish oak and hackberry tree, north three miles and three hundred poles to a sugar tree sapling and two white oak saplings, under a cliff of Duck river, where it comes from the north-east, thence down Duck river, according to its several meanders to the beginning.

II. Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the state of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the absolute property of the land so laid off by the commissioners, and included in the bounds above mentioned, be and it is hereby vested in fee-simple in the said Nathaniel Greene, his heirs and assigns forever ; and his excellency the governor is hereby directed to make out and execute without delay, on behalf of the state, a good and sufficient grant, with the seal of the state annexed in due form, to the said Nathaniel Greene, his heirs and assigns, for the lands above described, and to cause the same to be recorded or registered in the proper offices, and then to transmit the said grant as soon as may be to the said Nathaniel Greene.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all entries, warrants, surveys and grants, which have been made or obtained subsequent to March the eleventh, seventeen hundred and eighty-

three, the date of the return of the survey of the said Nathaniel Greene's lands, or shall be hereafter made or obtained by any other person or persons for the said lands, or any part thereof, shall be and they and every of them are hereby declared utterly void, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Act of General Assembly begun at Hillsboro April 19, 1784.

First session of Assembly, Alexander Martin, Esq., Governor.

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At a General Assembly, begun and held at Hillsborough, on the Thirteenth Day of April, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-two, and in the Sixth Year of the Independence of the said State: being the first Session of this Assembly.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF THE OFFICERS AND  
SOLDIERS IN THE CONTINENTAL LINE, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES THEREIN MENTIONED.

X. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That twenty-five thousand acres of land shall be allotted for, and given to Major General Nathanael Greene, his heirs or assigns, within the bounds of the lands reserved for the use of the army, to be laid off by the aforesaid commissioners, as a mark of the high sense this state entertains of the extraordinary services of that brave and gallant officer.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,  
GREETING.

KNOW YE, THAT WE, for and in Consideration, and as a Mark of the high sence of the Extraordinary Services of Major-General Nathaniel Greene, entertained by Our General Assembly, and by Virtue of an Act passed in this last Session in this Case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, unto the said Nathaniel Greene, a Tract of land Containing Twenty-five thousand Acres, lying and being in the County of . Beginning On the South bank of Duck river and Sycamore Cherry tree and Ash at the mouth of a Small Branch, running thence along a line of Marked trees, South Seven Miles, and fortyeight poles to two Spanish Oaks hickery and Sugar Saplin, then East Six Miles and ninety poles to a Spanish Oak and huckleberry tree, then North Three miles and three Hundred poles to a Sugar tree Saplin and two White Oak Saplins under a Clift of Duck river, where it comes from the North East, then down duck river according to the Several meanders to the Beginning, as by the Plat hereunto Annexed doth appear; together with all Woods, Waters, Mines, Minerals, Hereditaments, and Appurtenances to the said land belonging or Appertaining: To Hold to the said Nathaniel Greene his Heirs and Assigns for ever. Yeilding and paying to us such sums of Money yearly or otherwise, as our General Assembly from time to time may direct *pro-*

*vided always*, that the said Nathaniel Greene shall cause this Grant to be Registered in the Registers Office of our said County of \_\_\_\_\_, within Twelve months from the date hereof, Otherwise the same shall be void and of None Effect.

In Testimony whereof, we have caused these, Our letters, to be made Patent, and Our Great Seal to be hereunto Affixed.

Witness, Alexander Martin, Esquire, Our Governor, Captian-General, and Commander in Chief, at

the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Ninth Year of Our Independence, and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-four.

ALEX: MARTIN.

By His Eccellys commd.)

J. GLASGOW, *Secretary*.

## Appendix B.

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Extracts from House Journals of 1782 and 1783 in regards to Genl. Nathaniel Greene.

Augusta, January 1st, 1782.

Being the time appointed by the constitution of this State for the meeting of the General Assembly . . .  
.

January 3d, 1782.

The House met according to adjournments. . . .  
.

*Ordered*, That the Speaker be requested to write to his Excellency General Nathaniel Greene, informing him of the Honorable John Martin, Esquire, being elected Governor of this State, which was as follows:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, 4th January, 1782.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that the Honorable John Martin, Esquire, has been elected Governor of this State for the ensuing year, agreeable to the Constitution. I have the Honor to be Your Excellencys

Most obedient, humble Servant,

---

To His Excellency,

MAJR. GENERAL GREENE.

Wednesday, May 1st, 1782.

The House met according to adjournment. . . .

*Whereas*, the Honorable Major-General hath since his taking the Command of the Southern Army, rendered high and important services to these Southern States by wresting them from the hands of British oppression, and establishing the foundation of their independence and prosperity

*And Whereas*, services so glorious and honorable to the United States in general, and this State in particular, services which at once characterize the able and judicious General as well as the intrepid assertion of of American freedom, call for the distinguished approbation of the Legislature of this State,

*Be it therefore Resolved*, That the sum of Five Thousand guineas be granted to three Commissioners to be appointed by this House for the purpose of purchasing an Estate for Major-General Nathaniel Greene, in such part or parts of this State as he shall appoint.

*Resolved*, That the said Commissioners be empowered and authorized to draw on and receive the said sum of five thousand guineas from the public treasury of this State.

*Ordered*, That a committee be appointed to write to Major-General Greene, and Brigadier-General Wayne, on the substance of the Resolve in their favour. And that Mr. Howly, Mr. Clay, and Mr. Baker be that Committee.



Saturday, May 4th, 1782.

The House met according to adjournment. . . .

*Ordered*, That Mr. Howley, Mr. Clay, and Mr. O'Bryan be a Committee to purchase Estates for Generals Greene and Wayne. . . .

Wednesday, July 31st, 1782.

The House met according to adjournment. . . .

The Committee appointed to purchase lands for the Generals Greene and Wayne, agreeable to a Resolve of this House of the 1st day of May last, report. . .

That they have purchased another tract of land for the Honorable Major-General Greene, formerly the property of Graham, Esq., supposed to Contain two thousand one hundred Seventy-one acres. Amount of purchase, Seven thousand Ninety-seven pounds, nineteen Shillings. The Committee request if the House approves of the same, that this House will give directions to the Commissioners for the forfeited estates to execute titles for the above tracts of land to Generals Greene and Wayne. . . .

Monday, January 13th, 1783.

The House met according to adjournment. . . .

Motion being made and Seconded.

That a committee be appointed to prepare and re-

port an address, to be printed, to the Honorable Major-General Nathaniel Greene, Commander-in-Chief in the Southern Department.

*Ordered*, that Mr. William Houstoun, Mr. Telfair, and Mr. Jackson be that Committee.

. . . . .  
To the Honorable Nathaniel Greene, Esquire, Major-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Department, &c.

The address of the Representatives of the Freemen of the State of Georgia.

The Legislature of the State of Georgia wish to assure you of the real happiness your presence in their Capitol has given them—words are too inexpressible to convey their sentiments of the difficulties you have surmounted during your command in the Southern Department, not only your well directed exertions, and the virtuous struggle of your victorious army, but your views of ease to the Citizens, in drawing your resources through a Scattered Country, will be ever gratefully remembered by a State which has felt so particularly the happy consequences of them.

They congratulate you, Sir, on the Signal success wherewith the arms of the United States under your Command with the blessings of Divine Providence has been crowned by the total expulsion of the enemy from the southern States—an annual in the history of our Country which must render the name of Greene as long as the remembrance of British tyranny shall be handed to posterity.

They beg you to accept their unfeigned thanks for

your decided and intrepid conduct and to believe their ardent desire your future days may meet that care and happiness a glorious and serviceable life through this grand revolution most deservedly entitle you to.

By order &c. . . . .

. . . . .

Tuesday, January 14th, 1783.

The House met according to adjournment. . . . .

. . . . .

A letter from the Honorable Major-General Green was read.

*Ordered*, that the said letter be inserted in the minutes: and is as follows:

SIR:—Your polite and obliging address to welcome me to this State afford me the most singular satisfaction: Nor are your liberal acknowledgments for my small services and generous wishes for my future care less pleasing. It affords me the most agreeable sensations to Contemplate the happy change in the affairs of this Country, and it is among the first in my wishes that you may long, long enjoy the blessings of freedom and independence—free from further alarms: But should it be your misfortune to have the flames of war rekindled in this question, my early endeavors shall not be wanting to check its progress—and I cannot but hope by the smiles of Providence the virtue and spirit of the Army, joined by the genius of the Country we shall triumph over our enemies. I beg the Legislature to believe I am

highly Sensible of the honor they have done me, and take the liberty to assure you of my ready disposition to serve you.

I have the honor to be &c., &c.

. . . . .

Saturday, January 18th, 1783.

. . . . .

*Resolved*, that the persons appointed to purchase lands for the Honorable Major-General Nathaniel Greene be desired to report a full state of their proceedings thereon and in what stage the business stands. . . . .

The Committee having received Satisfactory information that Major-General Greene had declined the purchase made by the Commissioners appointed by the State to purchase certain lands on the conditions contained, therefore

*Resolved*, That the Commissioners appointed to sell and dispose of the Confiscated property do make titles to Major-General Greene, for a tract or tracts of land formerly the property of John Graham, Esquire—containing, as it is said, Two Thousand one hundred and Seventy-one acres—Known by the name of Mulberry Grove, and the new plat in lieu of a grant of five thousand lying [one line at bottom of page where written destroyed and cannot be read] . . . . . of this State of the first day of May, one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-two.

## Appendix C.

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On Monday last, the 19th day of June, died, at his seat near Savannah, Nathanael Greene, Esq., late Major-General in the Army of the United States; and on Tuesday morning his remains were brought to town to be interred. The melancholy account of his death was made known by the discharge of minute guns from Fort Wayne; the shipping in the harbour had their colours half-masted; the shops and stores in the town were shut; and every class of citizens, suspending their ordinary occupations, united in giving testimonies of the deepest sorrow.

The several military corps of the town, and a great part of the militia of Chatham county, attended the funeral, and moved in the following procession :

The Corpse of Artillery,  
The Light Infantry,  
The Militia of Chatham County,  
Clergymen and Physicians,  
Band of Music,  
The Corpse and Pall Bearers,  
Escorted on each side by a Company of Dragoons,  
• The Principal Mourners,  
The Members of the Cincinnati as Mourners,  
The Speaker of the Assembly,  
And other Civil Officers of the State,  
Citizens and Strangers.

About five o'clock the whole proceeded, the Music playing the Dead March in Saul, and the Artillery firing minute guns as it advanced. When the Military reached the vault in which the body was to be entombed they opened to the right and left, and, resting on reversed arms, let it pass through. The funeral service being performed, and the remains deposited, thirteen discharges from the artillery, and three from the musquetry, closed the scene. The whole was conducted with a solemnity suitable to the occasion.

With respect to the public character of this great man, it is so well known, by the distinguished services he has rendered his country, that it requires, and indeed can receive no addition from what might be said here. As to his private virtues, they will live in the remembrance of all his fellow citizens.

General Greene left behind him a wife and five children, the eldest of whom is about eleven years. The loss of such a man, to such a family, must be truly afflicting!

“Thy darts, O death : that fly promisc'ous round,  
In such a victim many others wound.”

Immediately after the interment of the General the members of the Cincinnati retired to the coffeehouse, and came to the following resolution :

*On motion*, That, as a token of the high respect and veneration in which this Society hold the memory of their late illustrious Brother, Major-General Greene, deceased, George Washington Greene, his eldest son,







COLONIAL PARK, SAVANNAH, GA., NOVEMBER 14, 1902.  
Showing tomb within which remains were found, with tablet.



be admitted a member of this Society, to take his seat on his arriving at the age of eighteen years :

*Resolved*, therefore, unanimously, That he be admitted a Member of the Cincinnati; and that he may take his seat in the Society on his arriving at the age of eighteen : That this resolve be published in the Georgia Gazette, and that the Secretary transmit a copy of the same to the several State Societies, and to the guardian of the said George Washington Greene.

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REGIMENTAL ORDERS, 20th June, 1786.

The Honorable Major-General Greene ( whose memory ought to be sacredly dear to every citizen of America, and respected by every lover of the rights of mankind ) having departed this life, the Colonel, from a sense sufficient honor cannot be paid his remains, but what is in the power of the regiment ought to be done, requests the regiment to exert themselves on the occasion.

The regiment will parade in the Church Square, the Infantry equally divided into eight platoons, and marched off with shouldered arms to the front of Major Pendleton's house on the Bay, from whence the procession will take place : The dragoons and Artillery will proceed in front of the regiment : When the procession begins the Light Infantry will conduct the Corpse, with reversed arms, to the left of the regiment ; it being received, they file off to the right and left, and take their former post in front of the battalion : The whole will then march off with rever-

sed arms, the Artillery advancing firing minute guns, till they arrive at the place of interment: The Dragoons will flank the corpse on the right and left, Music playing a solemn dirge. The procession being arrived at the place of burial, the regiment will file off to the right and left, face inwards, and rest on their arms, so as to let the corpse, pall-bearers, mourners, citizens, etc., pass through: The corpse being deposited, and funeral rites executed, the regiment will close their files, march up on the right of the vault, and give three general discharges, the Artillery at the same time firing thirteen rounds in honor of this truly great and good man. The regiment will then march off with traile'd arms to the place of parade, shoulder, and be discharged.

BEN FISHBOURN,

*Major C. C. M.*

*(The Gazette of the State of Georgia, Thursday,  
June 22, 1786.)*

## Appendix D.

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### The Discovery of the Remains. of Major-General Nathanael Greene First President of the Rhode Island Cincinnati

#### ADDRESS

BY

HON. ASA BIRD GARDINER, LL.D., L.H.D.

President of the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati

DELIVERED IN REPRESENTATIVES' CHAMBER, STATE  
HOUSE, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, JULY FOURTH  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND ONE, AT THE ANNUAL  
COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION OF THE SOCIETY

*Published by the Society*



# ADDRESS

BY

Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, LL.D., L.H.D.,

ON THE

DISCOVERY OF THE REMAINS OF MAJOR-GENERAL  
NATHANAEL GREENE, FIRST PRESIDENT  
OF THE RHODE ISLAND CINCINNATI.

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In the session of the Rhode Island General Assembly for March 19, 1901, a resolution was passed designating June 6, 1901, as "Nathanael Greene Memorial Day in commemoration of the services of Major-General Nathanael Greene in securing the independence of the United States, and for the purpose of furthering and carrying out the plan for erecting a statue of this eminent son of Rhode Island in the State capitol or upon the grounds thereof."

On this anniversary of American Independence, before narrating the interesting circumstances connected with the recent discovery of his remains in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, after their location had been lost for over 114 years, we may briefly refer to his family and his services in the War of the Revolution.

He was fifth in descent from Surgeon John Greene, one of the historic founders, with Roger Williams, in

1636, of Providence Plantations, and was born in Potowomut, Kent County, R. I., July 27, 1742, old style, or August 7, 1742, new style.

In biographical dictionaries, and other books of reference, material discrepancies are found as to the exact date of his birth.

Thus Savage gives it as May 22, 1742; while a number of authorities fix it on May 27, 1742, and others place it on June 6, 1742.

The General Assembly of Rhode Island seems to have chosen the latter date.

It remained, however, for the erudite Otis Ashmore, Esq., superintendent of public schools in the city of Savannah, Ga., in a paper which he read before the Georgia Historical Society on April 3, 1899, to demonstrate conclusively that the date first above mentioned is the actual date of Major-General Greene's birth.

From his entry into the military service as brigadier-general of this State's colonial force at the siege of Boston, in 1775, his military abilities were conspicuous, and the Rhode Island brigade was noticeable as the best equipped, the best drilled, contingent there present under General Washington.

It was at this early period of his military career that Colonel Timothy Pickering, who had listened to his remarks and questions while presiding at a general court martial, declared he was a man of "true military genius."

In the following year the Hon. William Duer, one of the Committee on Correspondence of the New York State Convention, in a communication to Lieu-

tenant-Colonel Tench Tilghman, aide-de-camp to Washington, dated October 2, 1776, said :

“ I am much mistaken if he is not possessed of that heaven-born genius which is necessary to constitute a great general.”

It would be indeed a pleasure to review here Major-General Greene's military services if time did but permit.

In October, 1777, after the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, Light horse Harry Lee, then captain in the First Regiment, Continental Light Dragoons, on duty at army headquarters, in a letter remarked that Greene was “ a general whose uniform conduct had already placed him high in the confidence of his chief and of the army.”

At the battle of Monmouth he commanded the second line, and a few days later Major James McHenry, military secretary to Washington, and afterward Secretary of War under President John Adams, in a letter dated “ Camp near New Brunswick, July 1, 1778,” in referring to that battle, said that Greene “ gave the most evident and unequivocal marks of great military worth, his dispositions were judicious, his judgment cool and clear, and his bravery always pointed and efficacious.”

Later, after the battle of Rhode Island, Major-General John Sullivan, in his report to Congress on August 31, 1778, from his headquarters at Tiverton, R. I., said :

“Major-General Greene, who commanded in the attack on the right, did himself the highest honor by the judgment and bravery he exhibited in the action.”

In June, 1780, he commanded the detachment of the main Continental army which fought the battle of Springfield, against Lieutenant-General Baron de Knyphausen, and was thanked by Washington in General Orders dated “Army Headquarters, Sufferns, June 26, 1780.”

When he relinquished the distasteful office of quartermaster-general he was, on September 30, 1780, thanked by Washington, in General Orders, for the “able and satisfactory manner in which he had discharged the duties.”

He had, on the day before, become president of the board of fourteen general officers which sat as a military commission and condemned Major John Andre, adjutant-general of the British army, as a spy, under the law of nations.

On October 14, 1780, Major-General Greene was assigned to the command of the department of the south, and it was owing to his potential services in that command that South Carolina and Georgia were rescued from British domination and retained in the number of States at the peace of 1783.

Time and again he was applauded and thanked by Congress, and by Washington, for his services in this command.

Marshal the Comte de Rochambeau, who knew him







Johnson Square and Greene Monument, Savannah, Ga., November 14, 1902.

well, in his memoirs paid him glowing tribute and recognized his "brilliant talent."

Finally, when hostilities were about to cease, Washington, in General Orders from Army Headquarters at Newburgh, dated January 23, 1783, expressed the sense he entertained of "the extraordinary abilities, bravery, and prudence displayed by General Greene in conducting the operations in the southern department."

On April 23, 1783, General Greene reviewed the Continental forces, then encamped on James Island, Charleston Harbor, S. C., in the presence of the governor of the State and his suite, and members of the legislature and many ladies, including his wife, Mrs. Greene, and then entertained his civilian guests at a banquet.

On this occasion one of the toasts which he gave was:

"May the spirit of Union prevail in the United States."

The General Assembly of South Carolina had previously, on January 18, 1782, "in consideration of his important services," voted him 10,000 guineas, while the legislature of North Carolina, on April 13, 1782, voted him 5,000 guineas and 25,000 acres of land.

The State of Georgia, by resolution of its legislature, on May 1, 1782, gave him 5,000 guineas and 24,000 acres of land.

This included a confiscated plantation of the Hon-

orable John Graham, Lieutenant-Governor, who had adhered to the British.

It was termed "Mulberry Grove," and was situated on the Savannah river, 12 miles above that city.

It contained dwelling houses, servants' quarters, outhouses and barns, and comprised 2,171 acres, being a fine plantation for those days. The deed from the State of Georgia to General Greene is dated March 5, 1785.

In concluding this necessarily brief reference to Major-General Greene's Revolutionary services, two or three further allusions may not be inappropriate.

On December 26, 1783, the Governor and General Assembly of Rhode Island presented their "sincerest congratulations" upon his return to his native State, and remarked that he had more than justified their expectations by his military conduct and achievements, so brilliant throughout the whole Revolution, and that the citizens of this State in particular would hold him dear.

On December 17, 1783, Major-General Greene attended the meeting of the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati, in the Senate chamber of the State House in Providence, and was elected by his brother Continental officers of the Rhode Island line their president.

He last presided over their deliberations at the annual meeting held in the State House, Newport, R. I., July 4, 1785, and on October 14, in the same year, set sail for Savannah, to get his plantation in order.

Here, at Mulberry Grove, on June 19, 1786, he died

suddenly of a congestive chill, due to exposure in the fields under a hot sun.

Brevet Major-General Anthony Wayne chanced to be with him at his decease, and, in a hasty note to the authorities of the city of Savannah, apprising them of the fact, said :

“ He was great as a soldier, greater as a citizen, immaculate as a friend. The honors, the greatest honors, of war are due to his memory. Pardon this scrawl, my feelings are but too much affected, because I have seen a great and good man die.”

Singular to relate, Washington, in notifying Count de Rochambeau of the fact, used Wayne's identical language, and said : “ He was a great and good man indeed.”

On July 4, 1789, in St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway, Alexander Hamilton, before the New York State Society of Cincinnati, delivered a masterful oration on the life and services of Major-General Greene.

Said Hamilton :

“ It required a longer life and still greater opportunities to have enabled him to exhibit in full day the vast, I had almost said the enormous, powers of his mind.”

Referring to Major-General Greene's bold determination to return to South Carolina after the battle of Guilford Court House, instead of following Lieutenant-General Earl Cornwallis to Petersburg, Va., where the latter was joined by the traitor Benedict Arnold, Hamilton said :

"This was one of those strokes that denote superior genius, and constitute the sublime of war. It was Scipio leaving Hannibal in Italy to overcome him at Carthage.

"The success was answerable to the judicious boldness of the design. The enemy were divested of their acquisitions in South Carolina and Georgia with a rapidity which, if not ascertained, would be scarcely credible.

"In the short space of two months all their posts in the interior of the country were reduced.

"The perseverance, courage, enterprise, and resource displayed by the American general, in the course of these events, commanded the admiration even of his enemies.

"In vain was he defeated in one mode of obtaining his object; another was instantly substituted that answered the end.

"In vain was he repulsed before a besieged fortress; he immediately found other means of compelling the defenders to relinquish their stronghold."

On August 8, 1786, Congress resolved that a monument should be erected in honor of his patriotism, valor, and ability, and in 1874 Congress decreed an equestrian statue, which was duly erected, in 1877, in Sherman square, Washington.

Previously, on July 2, 1864, Congress, by resolution, invited every "State to furnish for the old hall of the House of Representatives, two full length marble statues of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof and illustrious for their renown," and worthy of national commemoration.

One of the two statues furnished by Rhode Island



was that of Nathanael Greene, and in presenting it, on behalf of his State, the late United States Senator, Henry B. Anthony, said :

“ Among those who, in the Revolutionary period, won titles to the national gratitude, never disavowed, he whose statue we have placed in the capitol stands, in the judgment of his contemporaries and by the assent of history, second only to the man who towers without a peer in the annals of America.”

Archdeacon Cyrus Townsend Brady, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, in the preface to his latest romance, recently published, entitled “ When Blades Are Out and Love’s Afield,” says :

“ Next to Washington this ‘ New England Blacksmith,’ who so highly educated himself that, for relaxation, he read the Latin poets, in the original, by the light of the camp fire, stands as the most brilliant soldier-strategist, tactician, and fighter of the Revolution. And his character was as great as his genius.”

In closing this reference to this very great man, it may be said that his wonderful campaigns in the Carolinas may to-day be studied by the military student with even greater profit than those of Marlborough, Prince Eugene, Frederick the Great, or Bonaparte.

As before remarked, Major-General Greene died suddenly, at his plantation of Mulberry Grove, on June 19, 1786.

On the following day his remains were taken by boat to Savannah, where they were interred in the

Colonial cemetery, belonging to Christ Episcopal Church, in the very center of the then town of Savannah, with imposing civil and military ceremonies.

The *Georgia Gazette* of June 22, 1786, gives in detail the ceremonies at the obsequies, and mentions the Society of the Cincinnati in Georgia at that time, but since extinct, as the principal mourners. The entire town united in showing honor to the remains of this distinguished patriot, who, next to Washington, had shown himself greatest of our generals in the War of the Revolution.

The *Georgia Gazette*, in referring to the place of interment, merely used this language: "When the military reached the vault in which the body was to be entombed they opened to the right and left, and, resting on reverse arms, let it pass through. The funeral services being performed and the corpse deposited, thirteen discharges from the artillery and three from the musketry closed the scene. The whole was conducted with a solemnity suitable for the occasion."

It is noticeable that the particular vault in which the remains were deposited is not mentioned. These vaults were and are brick structures, mostly with a portion above ground, though there are a few which are wholly beneath the surface.

The cemetery was subsequently surrounded by a thick brick wall, of which but one side now remains, the wall being about twelve feet high, and toward which General Washington contributed to the erection. Several years ago Christ Church gave to the



city of Savannah the cemetery to be made into a park, on condition that the remains there deposited should not be disturbed by the city authorities.

Thereupon the wall was taken down on three sides facing upon three streets, leaving but the rear wall on an alleyway which separates the cemetery from the police barracks, and, in lieu of trees, shrubs and palms have been planted and walks laid out.

When General William T. Sherman's army, on its march from Atlanta, Ga., came to Savannah, many of the vaults were opened by the soldiers, in search of valuables, and much wanton destruction of monuments and tablets ensued, so that to-day many of the vaults are without means of identification. There are, however, four well-known Colonial vaults, among others, on a line perpendicular to South Broad street, now Oglethorpe avenue, which in one or two instances have been believed to belong to particular people, but there was no certainty, as there were absolutely no marks of identification. There are also a number of vaults antedating 1786, of which the ownership is, for the reason stated, unknown.

It is a singular fact that thirty years after the interment of General Greene's remains their location became a question of doubt. It might be supposed that some of General Greene's immediate descendants who were in Georgia at Mulberry Grove, with his widow, in 1786, might have known where they had been placed; but, within a very few years after his decease, Mrs. Nathanael Greene married Mr. Phineas Miller, and removed to Dungeness house, Cumberland

Island, Ga., with her family, 120 miles distant from Savannah, and for upward of forty years afterward none of the Greene family resided in or near Savannah.

Mrs. Phineas Miller, the general's widow, died at Dungeness House September 2, 1814, and the estate then became the property of her youngest daughter, Mrs. Louisa Shaw.

The condition of the climate and surroundings at that time in Savannah were not conducive to longevity, and many who had been residents there in the Revolutionary period soon passed away.

The place where Major-General Greene's remains were deposited was not indicated by any tablet, and in a few years all those who had attended his funeral were deceased.

In April, 1819, the city council of Savannah, probably with intent to place a tablet or erect a monument, appointed a committee to ascertain the location of General Greene's remains.

This committee reported that circumstances prevented a thorough investigation of the subject at that time, and in November the city council, apparently dissatisfied with the inefficiency or neglect of its committee, appointed another committee, but nothing was done.

At that time yellow fever was raging in Charleston, while in Savannah there were, for 1819, an unusually large number of deaths reported of the "prevailing fever."

The reason is, therefore, obvious why no investiga-

tion of unwholesome vaults was then made, and in the following year, 1820, Savannah also had an epidemic of yellow fever.

In 1821 William Johnson copyrighted his "Life of Major-General Nathanael Greene," a work to which he had given special care and attention, and in the preparation of which he had visited all the scenes of General Greene's military operations and interviewed many who had been participants with him in the War of the Revolution.

In reference to his obsequies Johnson uses this language (Vol. II., pp. 420-421):

"On the morning after his decease his corpse was brought down by water and received on the river bank by the military and municipality of the place. The citizens all followed in procession to the graveyard, which, to the honor of Christianity, is in that place common to all sects or all mankind; and the funeral ceremony of the church of England was read over the corpse by the Honorable William Stephens, as there was not, at that time, a minister of the gospel in the city.

"The body was deposited in a vault, but the identical vault still remains a subject of inquiry.

"The graves and vaults are all disposed in regular rows, and there are four contiguous vaults in one of those rows, one of which four it is ascertained the body was deposited in, but which of them still remains in doubt.

"A committee was appointed in 1820 by the mayor and aldermen to search for the remains, and deposit them, with due solemnity, in a fit receptacle, and the committee have made diligent researches in several of

the four designated vaults, but were prevented by unavoidable obstacles from extending their search to all.

"The coffin is distinguished, wherever it lies, by a plate of silver or brass, engraved with the name and age in the usual manner, and it is confidently hoped will yet be identified."

It will be perceived that the author, Johnson, was in error as to the year when the committee was appointed, which was 1819 instead of 1820; nevertheless, he evidently had no doubt that the remains would be found in one of the four Colonial vaults.

In a footnote to this extract the author added as follows :

"Judge Stephens, who performed the funeral services, has repeatedly told the author that the body lay in the tomb of the Jones'. That tomb has not yet been searched. But there is much evidence to prove that it was placed at first in that of the Grahams as an appendage to the confiscated estate conferred on him by Georgia.

"This vault afterward passed to the family of Mossman, who married a sister of Mrs. Graham.

"From which the author's inquiries induce him to believe that it was removed under the order of Mrs. Mossman, but whither is unknown. There is still a possibility that it may have been removed to that of the Jones'."

Judge William Stephens, to whom the author refers, was, from 1801 to August 6, 1819, when he died in Savannah, aged sixty-seven years and seven months, the United States district judge for Georgia.

When he officiated at Major-General Greene's funeral, a little over thirty-three years before, he was judge of the Superior Court for Chatham County, and grand master of the Masonic fraternity.

It is noticeable, in Johnson's account of his interview with Judge Stephens, that the latter never stated that General Greene's remains were originally deposited in the Jones vault.

Probably there had been conversation on the subject of the desirability of their removal, as the Jones family would have felt honored in such a final transfer.

The Hon. Noble Wymerly Jones, who had built the Jones vault, had been a warm personal friend of Greene.

Born in London, England, in 1724, he died in Savannah, January 9, 1805. He was a thoroughly earnest whig in the Revolution, and consistent supporter of Greene in the Continental Congress, to which he was a delegate in 1775, and again from 1781 to 1783, and often speaker of the Georgia legislature.

No doubt Judge Stephens believed the transfer had been made, as the vaults were close together in line.

Johnson accepted the statement that the remains were first deposited in the Lieutenant-Governor Graham-Mossman vault, and incorporated that important fact in his narrative, and expressed the confident hope that the remains would yet be identified.

As we progress in this paper it will be learned that the representatives of the Graham-Mossman family

always insisted that the remains had never been disturbed, but were still in their tomb.

To the Hon. William Harden, of Savannah, who is librarian of the Georgia Historical Society and secretary of the Sons of the Revolution in that State, we are indebted for most painstaking record investigation and elucidation of this interesting subject.

It is patent that the municipal committee appointed in April, 1819, really did nothing in the way of research, or they would have been continued and a new committee would not have been appointed. The appointment of such a committee was an indirect but customary method of expressing legislative displeasure.

The Hon. William Harden, who is perhaps the most thoroughly informed citizen in Savannah upon its local history, is of opinion that the first municipal committee, as well as the second, were afraid to make any special search because of the prevailing yellow fever.

The municipal committee appointed in April, 1819, in their report, nowhere say that they examined any vaults, but merely that circumstances prevented any investigation at that time.

In the same year the Grand Jury of the Superior Court for Chatham County recommended the discontinuance of burials in the Colonial cemetery, and the *Columbian Museum and Savannah Gazette* for September 2, 1819, mentions an appropriation for a plot, and it is a fact that those who died of yellow fever or other contagious or infectious diseases were not al-

lowed to be entombed in vaults or buried in the Colonial cemetery.

Before narrating events which led to the discovery of the remains of General Greene and of his son, George Washington Greene, who was drowned in the Savannah river, near Mulberry Grove, on March 28, 1793, it is desirable to narrate something about Lieutenant-Governor John Graham and his family and clear up traditional stories in the light of rebutting facts.

Lieutenant-Governor Graham and his wife, upon the evacuation of Savannah by the British, on July 11, 1782, went to England and died there, leaving no descendants whatever in Georgia.

Mrs. Graham's sister was Mrs. Elizabeth Mossman, wife of James Mossman, of Savannah.

All of Lieutenant-Governor John Graham's property had been confiscated by the State of Georgia, and he attainted as a traitor; consequently he had no heritable estate in Georgia to which any one could succeed.

Mrs. Mossman, by reason of being a sister of Mrs. Graham, had no legal claim by kinship or otherwise, to any real property which Lieutenant-Governor Graham had been possessed of.

As to the Graham vault, it would appear never to have been occupied by any remains prior to the placing there of Major-General Greene's, in 1786.

The town of Savannah was then a very small place, and society was extremely limited in number.

Whether James Mossman was a mild tory or not



history does not say. Certainly he and his wife preferred to remain, on the evacuation by the British and the departure of the Governor, Sir James Wright, Bart., with many tory citizens, and cast their lot for the future with their whig neighbors.

There have been two singular traditions concerning the alleged removal of General Greene's remains from the Graham vault, in each of which Mrs. Mossman is depicted as the moving and enraged spirit.

The first is that she caused her negro slaves to take at midnight the remains from the vault and throw them into Negro creek.

The second is that she caused them to be removed and buried at night in a grave in the Colonial cemetery.

It is specially noteworthy that neither of these traditional stories was prevalent in Savannah when Johnson in 1819 wrote his biography of Greene.

Historians perfectly understand that tradition is the most unreliable and unsubstantial of all sources of information, and the late search has amply justified this statement.

That Mrs. Mossman was not the kind of person to do as ascribed in these traditions is happily put beyond doubt by her obituary notice.

In fact, no such procedure as ascribed in these traditions could possibly have taken place in so small a community as Savannah without surely being discovered.

Major-General Greene was too distinguished a man, and it would have meant ostracism and banishment,



if not penal servitude, had such an outrage been attempted. There was no special sentiment concerning the Graham vault as a family vault, because it was a new one, and, as before remarked, no family remains had been deposited there.

Mrs. Mossman was not an independent person, but lived with her husband.

Her obituary notice in the *Georgia Gazette* for November 25, 1802, negatives these traditional stories.

It is as follows :

“Died yesterday, aged seventy-two years, Mrs. Elizabeth Mossman, the worthy and much respected consort of James Mossman, Esq.

“This lady was a native of the Island of St. Christopher, and has resided nearly fifty years in this State.”

On June 15, 1803, her husband died. In the *Columbian Museum and Savannah Advertiser*, dated Savannah, Wednesday, June 22, 1803, appears this notice :

“Died: In this city on Wednesday evening last, James Mossman, Esq.”

There is no record where either he or his wife was buried, nor of any funeral services at their residence or elsewhere.

As was too common in Savannah at that time, one or both probably died of yellow fever, or of a contagious disease, because no announcement of a funeral is made. They were presumably buried in common ground, and record of burial is lost.

His will is dated June 1, 1801, and mentions his nephew, Philip Young, and others, none of whom were then in the United States; accordingly, for this reason, an administrator was appointed.

Philip Young subsequently returned, and died in Savannah on July 24, 1819, aged fifty-six years, and in his obituary notice in the *Columbian Museum and Savannah Gazette* of Monday, August, 5, 1819, it is stated that he was a nephew of the late James Mossman. He left a widow and a sister, and also a son and daughter, hereinafter to be mentioned.

He apparently died of the "prevailing fever," and his remains were required to be buried in the common burying ground for yellow fever cases, and consequently the record of the place of burial has been lost.

Accordingly, when his daughter, Miss Jane Margaret Young, procured a lot in the new Laurel Grove cemetery, and removed her mother's, Mrs. Jane Young's, remains there, and her aunt's, Mrs. Margaret Scott's, and her brother's, Philip Young, Jr., she could not find where her father's were buried to do likewise. By her will she left \$500 to put a monument over her brother's grave, who had died in 1838.

This little genealogical reference is important, as will hereafter be seen.

To recapitulate :

Philip Young, Sr., nephew of James Mossman, of the Revolutionary period (who had married the sister of Mrs. John Graham), upon dying of yellow fever in 1819, left :

1. A widow, Jane Young, who died in 1858 ;
2. A son, Philip Young, Jr., above mentioned, who died in October, 1838 ;
3. A sister, Margaret, wife of Robert Scott, who survived her husband and died in Savannah, February 24, 1862, aged eighty-two years ; and
4. A daughter, Miss Jane Margaret Young, above mentioned, who died June 23, 1893, aged seventy-eight years.

All these four bodies are buried in Laurel Grove cemetery, because burials in the Colonial cemetery, at the dates of their decease, were forbidden.

The remains of Robert Scott, husband of Margaret Young, were placed in the Graham-Mossman vault when interment there was permitted, but were not removed by Miss Jane Margaret Young from that vault, to be placed beside those of his wife, Margaret Scott, in Laurel Grove cemetery, after the latter's decease in 1862.

No reason is known why Miss Jane Margaret Young did not remove the remains of her uncle by marriage, Robert Scott, from the Graham-Mossman vault and place them alongside his wife's remains in Laurel Grove cemetery.

Robert Scott was of the firm of Scott & Balfour, merchants in Savannah, and well known to some of the present surviving older residents of that city.

He died June 5, 1845, aged seventy years.

In *The Georgian*, a newspaper published in Savannah on June 6, 1845, the burial was announced to

take place from 33 Bay street, the home of Mrs. Jane Young, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

This explains why Robert Scott was buried in the Graham-Mossman vault, which had never been claimed by the Greene family after General Greene's son was buried there in 1793.

A particularly interesting fact in this connection is that Miss Jane Margaret Young frequently positively declared to Mrs. T. F. Screven, of Savannah, and to others still surviving, that all the talk about General Greene's remains having been removed was idle gossip, and that the body rested in her family vault in the Colonial cemetery.

Although Miss Jane Margaret Young procured, as before stated, a lot in Laurel Grove cemetery, it will be perceived that no remains in the Colonial Graham-Massman vault were ever disturbed.

This Colonial cemetery, now bright and cheery under a southern sun, and, although without trees, adorned with semi-tropical palms and shrubs, and the daily playground of happy children around its vaults and gravestones and over its grassy plots, still exhibits many of the inexcusable marks of desecration of General Sherman's troops—headstones defaced, marble tablets removed from vaults and destroyed, and many vaults broken into and wrecked, remaining to-day as they were left in 1865.

As to the Colonial vaults, no one in recent years knew to whom three of the four belonged, nor which was the Graham-Mossman vault. As to the fourth, or Jones vault, it was supposed to be the second in

the row from Oglethorpe avenue. This supposition afterward proved incorrect.

The representative of that family is Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq., of Savannah. His father, the late George Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq., who died in July, 1880, removed, several years before his decease, the remains of all the members of his family from the Jones vault to Bonaventure cemetery, and told the Hon. William Harden and others that he had no difficulty in identifying every body. The vault was then reclosed.

In 1840, the late George G. Johnstone, of Savannah, who had married a granddaughter of Major-General Greene, and the late Phineas Miller Nightingale, grandson of Major-General Greene, and half-brother to Mr. Johnstone's wife, in the desire to find his remains, made some effort at inquiry and investigation, which was very inconclusive, as they were without authority for systematic search. It does not appear that they opened any vaults whatever.

In February, 1818, *Nile's Register* (Vol. XIV., p. 15) announced that a "subscription had been opened at Savannah to erect a monument over the remains of General Greene, who was next only to one in building up the Republic."

In 1837-8, an obelisk was erected in Savannah, intended to serve as a monument both for Greene and for Count Casimir Pulaski, commandant of the First Battalion, Continental Legion, who was killed in the assault on Savannah in October, 1779.

In 1853, however, a cornerstone for a separate

monument to Pulaski was laid in Monterey square, and thereafter the original monument was dedicated to Greene, and in 1886 appropriate bronze commemorative tablets were affixed by the Chatham Artillery.

It would be supposed that at the time the monument was erected an effort would have been made to find his remains to place beneath it, but nothing was attempted.

Last summer the inquiry was again made through the Savannah press.

Thereupon all sorts of traditionary and apocryphal stories were gravely put forth.

In August, 1890, an old gentleman named A. R. Wright, of Atlanta, Ga., now in his ninetieth year, went to Savannah and endeavored to point out to the Hon. William Harden a certain spot in the Colonial cemetery, near the corner of Oglethorpe avenue and Bull street, where he said a mound had existed, over which he had played as a boy, and which was then understood by the boys, according to tradition, to be General Greene's grave.

After the lapse of over eighty years he was unable to locate positively the place.

This old gentleman had for seventy years been a member of the Chatham Artillery, which had acted as escort at General Greene's funeral.

Another tradition was that the remains had been taken secretly to Cumberland Island, Ga., and several persons asserted positively that they had seen the tombstone there.

This tombstone is, however, that of General



Greene's widow, on which his name appears in large characters, and therefore, from a cursory inspection, would appear to be his. A cenotaph to his memory has also added to the belief in his burial there.

It is proper here to remark that the entire story as to the removal of the remains to Cumberland Island, Ga., narrated through the Savannah Press last February and March by one A. B. Goodwin, of Savannah, as hearsay upon hearsay, told years before in a tavern in St. Marys, Ga., was disproved, not only by the improbable character of many of the alleged particulars, which frequently varied in the narration by the said Goodwin in recent interviews, but also by the positive statements of Robert Tyler Waller, Esq., and other members and connections of the Greene family, including the late Venerable and Honorable Nathanael Greene, M. D., LL. D., as well as others who had visited that island, and by the declaration, equally positive, of Daniel G. Purse, Esq., of Savannah, who for ten years was trustee for that estate and resided there; the committee also having a complete record of all the recorded burials at Cumberland Island, including that of General Harry Lee, "Light Horse Harry," of the Continental Dragoons of the Revolution.

The late president of Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati, the Venerable and Honorable Nathanael Greene, last mentioned, grandson of Major-General Greene, was born at Dungeness House, Cumberland Island, Ga., June 2, 1809, and died in

Middletown, R. I., July 8, 1899, in his ninety-first year.

He remembered his grandmother Greene, and spent much of his early life at Cumberland Island and Savannah, Ga., and, except during the period of the War of the Rebellion, was for about seventy years accustomed to go there every year.

He was very desirous of a thorough search being made for his grandfather's remains, feeling sure they would be discovered where originally deposited, if the Graham vault could be found.

On several occasions he gave the present president of the society (as told him by his own father, Nathanael Ray Greene) a description of the remarkable head of his grandfather and its unusual brain development and dome-like skull, such as is found depicted in the original portrait, painted by Sully, and now in possession of his descendants, the Nightingale family.

This remarkable head, it is proper to remark, is, from the eyes upward, of the same conformation as that of Cuvier, Humboldt, Bonaparte, and Daniel Webster—once seen, never to be forgotten.

In consequence of the inquiry suggested by the press of Savannah, the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati adopted resolutions for the appointment of a committee, the preamble to which explained the objects, as follows:

*"Whereas, after diligent inquiry, it is believed that full investigation has never yet been made to ascertain definitely where the remains of Major-General*



Nathanael Greene, president of the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati, were deposited after his decease at Mulberry Grove, Ga., in 1786 ;

*"And, Whereas,* it is believed that a thorough search of the four old burial vaults in the old cemetery now forming a part of Colonial Park, Savannah, Ga., will determine whether the remains are deposited in a certain one of the said vaults as believed by persons well informed in matters of local history and as substantiated by authentic record ;

*"And, Whereas,* it is particularly appropriate that the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations should do whatever may be necessary toward ascertaining the burial place of its first president, the great patriot and soldier, who, next to Washington, aided so potentially in securing the independence of the United States."

The society thereupon appointed a committee to make the inquiry and appropriated the necessary funds to carry it into effect.

This committee consisted of the Hon. George Anderson Mercer, A. M., president of the Georgia Historical Society ; the Hon. Walter G. Charlton, A. M., president of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia, both of whom are eminent members of the Georgia bar ; the Hon. Philip Dickenson Daffin, chairman of the Savannah Park and Tree Commission ; the Hon. William Harden, secretary of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Georgia and librarian of its Historical Society ; Mr. Alfred Dearing Harden, A. B., LL. B., of the Savannah bar, member of the South Carolina State

Society of the Cincinnati, with the president of the Rhode Island Cincinnati as chairman.

These gentlemen entered heartily into the subject of the inquiry, and carefully weighed and considered everything of a traditional nature on this subject, in order that if the special search which was desired should prove ineffective, then such weight should be given to the traditional stories as their peculiar character might warrant. The direct intention of the committee from the outset, as will be hereinafter set forth, was to find the Graham-Mossman vault, if possible, and also examine the supposed Jones vault, as to which punctilious courtesy required that the examination should be delayed until the last, in order to communicate with the proper descendant of the original owner of the supposed Jones vault.

The greatest interest was manifested by the people of the city of Savannah.

Several members of the committee were always present and a large concourse of citizens, and among those who attended to witness the investigation were the Hon. Thomas Manson Norwood, judge of the City Court and former United States Senator, 1871-1877, who came several times; the Hon. Robert Falligant, judge of the Superior Court and member of the North Carolina State Society of the Cincinnati; the Hon. Pope Barrow, former United States Senator, and Captain Thomas Screven. The committee were continuously and ably assisted by Robert Tyler Waller, Esq., grandson of ex-President John Tyler, who married Emily Greene Johnstone, a great-grand-

daughter of Major-General Greene. Mr. Waller resides in Savannah, and represented the branch of the Greene family in Georgia.

The chairman of the committee, by reason of being a member of the Greene family, although not descended from General Greene, represented, at their request, his descendants resident in Rhode Island.

Otis Ashmore, Esq., superintendent of schools, and Edward J. Kelly, Esq., of Savannah, also continuously assisted.

The committee's attention was first given to examination of the many vaults, including one known as the Dr. Donald MacLeod vault, and others, where, according to tradition, the remains had been deposited.

Many of these vaults were found to be in a very bad condition for want of proper repairs. The most careful scrutiny, nevertheless, was made in a reverent and proper manner, and records kept of the coffin-plates which were found, to the gratification of many in Savannah, who, in the absence of distinguishing marks to those vaults, owing to the vandalism before referred to, did not know with certainty where the remains of certain members of their families had been deposited. Every vault was immediately reclosed with cemented brick, on conclusion of examination, before another vault was opened.

The labor was exclusively performed through the Park and Tree Commission, under the immediate charge of Mr. William H. Robertson, chief clerk and deputy to that commission, and the trusted employees

of that commission were alone employed in the important work of examining the remains in the vaults, all under the personal supervision of the committee.

Finally, after all the vaults where tradition, or statements more or less positive by citizens, averred that the remains were deposited had been critically and carefully examined, the committee gave its exclusive attention to the four "Colonial" vaults in a row, located at right angle to Oglethorpe avenue.

The first of these, nearest to that avenue, although like the rest without distinguishing mark, was found to be the family vault of Colonel Richard Wylly, Deputy Quartermaster-General of the Continental Army in the Revolution, and member of the Georgia State Society of the Cincinnati.

His remains and coffin-plate were there found.

The next in line was supposed to be the Jones vault, and its examination, as a matter of courtesy, was deferred by the committee until the last, in order to communicate first with Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq., proper representative of that family.

The third vault in line, upon being opened, was found to be empty; but the committee afterward ascertained that this vault was really the "Jones" vault, from which all remains, properly identified, had been removed, as before stated, to Bonaventure cemetery, by the late George Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq.

The fourth vault in line was found to be that of an old Savannah family, the Thiot family, whose representatives still reside there.

The committee then gave its final attention to the second vault in line, which was opened at the front, to permit workmen to enter, and a smaller opening was made through the rear brick wall to permit entrance of light and air. In the centre of the vault were found probably a cartload of broken bricks, which had first to be removed.

Upon examination there was found on one side a casket in a remarkable state of preservation, containing the remains of Robert Scott, who died June 5, 1845, fifty-six years ago, aged seventy. The silver plate to his coffin was hardly discolored.

On the other side of the vault nearest the wall were noticed the rotting fragments of a coffin. Upon these being removed there appeared a man's skeleton quite intact, except some of the smaller ribs, which clearly showed that his body had never been disturbed.

The two experienced workmen employed inside of the vault were Charles C. Gattman and Edward W. Keenan.

As the fragments of the coffin were removed from the remains, they both exclaimed as to the remarkably prominent configuration of the skull.

Mr. Edward J. Kelly, who was watching the proceeding through the opening, at once noticed the same fact, and called the attention of the chairman and other members of the committee present, to this circumstance. The workmen then removed the remaining fragments of the coffin and looked for the plate, which was found where it should be, sunk down among the bones of the breast. As Mr. Gatt-

man passed this plate up through the opening he examined it in the bright sunlight, and remarked that he noticed the date "1786," he not knowing that this was the date of General Greene's decease. The plate is silver gilt, which is quite distinguishable upon the reverse side.

Upon the face are not only the figures 1786, but also, upon careful inspection, members of the committee and Messrs. Waller and Kelly discovered the letters "reene," the final termination of the word "Greene," in proper position, and Mr. W. G. Charlton believed he could make out, after very close scrutiny in bright sunlight, the preceding letters "ael" of the word "Nathanael."

Some of the bones crumbled upon being handled, but the larger bones and skull and jaw bones were all preserved.

Search was then made for metal buttons, as it was reasonably presumed that he had been buried in his uniform as a major-general of the Continental army.

Three metal buttons were discovered, badly corroded, upon one of which, however, could be very faintly discerned the form of an eagle, which was the distinguishing mark upon the buttons of a major-general.

An article by the present president of the Rhode Island Cincinnati, in the *Magazine of American History* for 1883 (Vol. IX., p. 281), on this subject, describes the buttons prescribed for the uniform of general officers in the War of the Revolution.

In no other vault, and in no other examination of

the remains of the many examined, were there other than wooden buttons found, which had originally been covered with silk, cloth, or velvet.

Another peculiarly significant fact, which cannot be overlooked, was the discovery of fragments of heavy white silk gloves, much discolored, and containing the bones of the fingers.

These gloves were such as general officers in the French army would have worn, and were, doubtless, a present from the Marquis de Lafayette to Major-General Greene, in 1784-5. The marquis was accustomed to make presents to his brother officers in the Revolutionary army, and every time he returned to the United States he brought a great many gifts of a military character. Among other things, he gave Major-General Greene a number of silver camp mugs or cups, such as were used by the Marshals of France. These were preserved in the family of the late Professor George Washington Greene in Rhode Island. Lafayette's very deep attachment for Greene is well authenticated.

The Rhode Island Cincinnati entertained him in Newport in October, 1784, on his arrival after the Revolution, and he saw General Greene while then in the United States.

When he came again, in 1824, he gave to General Greene's youngest daughter, Mrs. Louisa Shaw, a steel-plate engraving of her father with this inscription in Lafayette's well-known handwriting, viz.:



"TO DEAR MRS. SHAW:

"From her father's most intimate friend and companion in arms,

"LA FAYETTE."

This is now in possession of Mrs. Robert Tyler Waller, great-granddaughter of General Greene, 320 Huntington street, East, Savannah, Ga.

After the examination of Major-General Greene's remains had been concluded, all the mould and bones were carefully collected and put temporarily in a box procured for the purpose, the cover to which was securely nailed.

The workmen reported another body alongside, with fragments of a coffin. Upon these fragments being removed, Mr. Gattman, who had had much experience in that business, remarked that they were the remains of a male person probably eighteen or nineteen years of age, he not knowing that Major-General Greene's son, George Washington Greene, had been drowned in the Savannah river, off Mulberry Grove, on March 28, 1793, in the eighteenth year of his age, and his remains interred alongside of his father's.

Most of those bones crumbled upon being handled. They were, however, carefully collected with all the mould, and put in another box, which was nailed up. The coffin-plate, not being of silver, was too badly corroded to enable anything to be deciphered upon it.

The boxes were removed to the police barracks, near by, and placed over night under the care of the



captain of police and the vault rebricked and sealed. These proceedings were all witnessed by a considerable concourse of people.

On the following day suitable boxes were procured, zinc-lined, and taken to the police barracks, and Mr. Keenan, who had assisted in the vault, in a room put at the service of the committee and in the presence of the lieutenant of police and other policemen, and the members of the committee and the press, and W. T. Dixon, undertaker, of 15 Perry street, East, and his assistants, carefully removed the remains of Major-General Greene to a zinc-lined box prepared for the purpose. In doing so Mr. Otis Ashmore, assisted by Mr. Edward J. Kelly, made measurements of the skull, which corresponded to the details in Sully's original portrait of Major-General Nathanael Greene, and the statements made by the late Hon. Nathanael Greene, and other members of the Greene family.

In the "Life of Major-General Nathanael Greene," by his grandson, the late Professor George Washington Greene, LL. D., of East Greenwich, R. I., there will be found, as a frontispiece (Volume I.), a portrait of General Greene, the skull of which exactly corresponds to the one found.

My lamented friend, the late Colonel John Screven, of Savannah, president of the Georgia Sons of the Revolution, had proposed to make this investigation, and repeatedly declared that General Greene's remains would be recognized by his skull. It was of the same distinctive character, as before remarked, of Buonaparte, Humboldt, Cuvier, and Daniel Webster.

The teeth, both upper and lower, were remarkably well preserved in a jaw which showed great determination and firmness of character, and in the judgment of Otis Ashmore, Esq., and others, clearly indicated the age to be about forty-five years.

After the remains of Major-General Greene had been deposited in the zinc-lined box, the zinc cover was placed upon the box and soldered in its place, the wooden cover was then screwed down, handles put to the ends of the box and a coffin-plate put upon it bearing the inscription :

“MAJOR-GENERAL NATHANAEL GREENE,

Born August 7, 1742,

Died June 19, 1786.”

In like manner the remains of George Washington Greene were transferred to the other zinc-lined box, which was closed in like manner, the coffin-plate containing the inscription :

“GEORGE WASHINGTON GREENE,

Son of Major-General Nathanael Greene.”

The remains were then taken by Mr. Dixon, the undertaker, in his wagon, accompanied by members of the committee and the press, to the Southern Bank of the State of Georgia, which is a depository of the city of Savannah. Here they were received by Horace A. Crane, Esq., vice-president, and James Sullivan, Esq., cashier, and taken, in the presence of those gentlemen and of the committee, and deposited in the safe deposit vault of the bank, where they remain

subject to the order of the chairman and Alfred Dearing Harden, Esq., of the committee, as trustees.

After the remains had been discovered and disposed of, on Monday, March 4, the committee met in final session at the residence of the Hon. George Anderson Mercer, and immediately afterward, at a meeting of the Historical Society of Georgia, which was numerously attended, he, as president of the society, announced, on behalf of the committee, the discovery of the remains.

The extremely important fact of the discovery of the remains of Mr. Robert Scott in this vault, who had married the neice of James Mossman, and had been buried from the Young residence, leaves no doubt whatever that this Colonial vault was the Graham-Mossman vault, and that the empty vault adjoining was the Jones vault.

When the Graham-Mossman vault was opened and the remains of Robert Scott discovered there, the committee did not then know his connection with that family, and, in the absence of Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq., were unable to ascertain what connection, if any, he had with the Jones family.

Accordingly the chairman, in an official report to the Hon. William Gregory, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, dated March 13, 1901, assumed that that vault, instead of the empty one, was the Jones vault, from whence the remains of all members of the Jones family had been removed by the late George Wymberly Jones de Renne, Esq.

The committee, however, desired to know how Robert Scott's remains got into that vault.

Accordingly, the Honorable William Harden made careful search through probate and other court records, cemetery records and inscriptions, and newspapers of the day, with the indisputable results hereinbefore recited as to the Graham-Mossman family.

Lovers of historical truth cannot but be gratified at his painstaking and successful efforts, which had fully borne out the repeated declarations of Miss Jane Margaret Young that, when proper search should be made, Major-General Greene's remains would be found in her family vault, the Graham-Mossman vault.

It has been hereinbefore remarked that many vaults were opened and remains disturbed in 1865 in the search for valuables supposed to be there concealed.

Several indications lead, however, to the conclusion that the Graham-Mossman vault was never disturbed.

The brickwork had no appearance of having been broken through; but, even had an opening been effected, the vault would, on a cursory inspection, have appeared to be abandoned, as most of the interior was filled with broken brick, although how the brick got there is a mystery.

In any cursory inspection the bodies would not have been distinguishable in the darkness, as they were against the sides of the vault.

If any previous search was ever made in that vault for General Greene's remains, of which there is no record, the little coffin-plate was evidently not dis-

covered, as it laid among the remains on the ground, in the mould, with fragments of the coffin over it. Nothing could have been deciphered upon inspecting the plate without closest scrutiny under the bright sun, and there is no record whatever of any such discovery or scrutiny.

In conclusion, the committee, appointed by the Rhode Island Cincinnati, are indeed happy that their labors have resulted so successfully, and they have no doubt that all lovers of our country will rejoice with them.

It will be observed that the details of this matter, some of which may appear inconsequential, have been given with great particularity, because in a matter of history they are necessary.

Had the *Georgia Gazette* of 1786 mentioned the particular vault where General Greene's remains had been deposited, there would then never have been any doubt upon the subject.

The coffin-plate of Major-General Greene, having been submitted to careful scientific restoration in order to remove the incrustation due to sulphuretted hydrogen, and then photographed, presents the following inscription :

"NATHANAEL GREENE,

"Obit. June 19, 1786.

"Aetat 44 years."

No decision has yet been reached as to where these honored remains shall finally be deposited, whether under the obelisk in Savannah or under the eques-

trian statue in Washington, or under the new monument about to be erected at the State capitol of Greene's native State, or under the proposed monument on the Guilford Court House battle ground.

In any final determination the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati propose to make no suggestion, but to leave the subject wholly with Major-General Greene's direct descendants, after due consultation, as seems most suitable, with the governors of the States of Rhode Island and Georgia respectively.

## Appendix E.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM  
COUNTY.

JOHN WILLIAMSON, *et al.*,  
Complainants,

*and*

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF  
SAVANNAH,  
Defendant.

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THE CHURCH WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN OF THE  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SAVANNAH, CALLED  
CHRIST CHURCH,  
Complainants,

*and*

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF  
SAVANNAH,  
Defendant.

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### FINAL DECREE.

Said causes came on to be heard on pleadings and proof, having by consent of all parties been taken from the suspense docket, and put on the trial docket, and all parties hereto consenting that His Honor,



Judge Robert Falligant shall preside in these causes, and further consenting that said causes be heard and determined by him as one cause, and without a jury, and that this decree be rendered as final and conclusive.

It is Ordered, Adjudged, and Decreed :

1. That the certain piece of ground on the south-east corner of South Broad and Abercorn Streets, in the City of Savannah, Georgia, known as the "Old Cemetery," being now enclosed by a brick wall, but embracing also, an open strip of land on South Broad Street, lying between the brick wall (parallel to said street), and the edge of the pavement, (along said street), and extending from Abercorn Street to the Police Barracks, said whole tract of land being bounded, on the north by South Broad Street, on the east by the Police Barracks, and the Jail, on the south by the Pound property belonging to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, and on the west, by Abercorn Street, a plat of which is filed as part of this decree, is declared to be owned by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, and the title of the same in said municipal corporation is hereby fixed and confirmed, absolutely, The Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah, called Christ Church, having waived its right and title to the portion of said Old Cemetery mentioned in its bill, for the considerations hereinafter mentioned, and particularly, because of the covenants hereinafter made by the said Mayor and Aldermen of the City



of Savannah to forever preserve said ground as a final resting place of the dead, now buried therein.

2. That, in full extinguishment of all right, title, interest, claim or demand of the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah, called Christ Church, in or to any portion of said tract of land, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, shall pay the said first named corporation, or to its council of record, the sum of Sixty five hundred dollars (\$6500), in promissory notes, to be duly executed by said The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, through its Mayor, attested by the Clerk of Council, with the corporate seal affixed, and in pursuance of a resolution to be passed by said The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, in council assembled, said notes to be as follows :

One note for one thousand (\$1000) dollars, due January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven (1897), without grace ;

One note for one thousand (\$1000) dollars, due January first, Eighteen Hundred and ninety-eight, (1898), without grace ;

One note for one thousand (\$1000) dollars, due January first, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine (1899), without grace ;

One note for one thousand (\$1000) dollars, due January first, nineteen hundred (1900), without grace ;

One note for one thousand (\$1000) dollars, due January first, Nineteen hundred and one (1901), without grace ;

One note for Fifteen hundred (\$1500) dollars, due

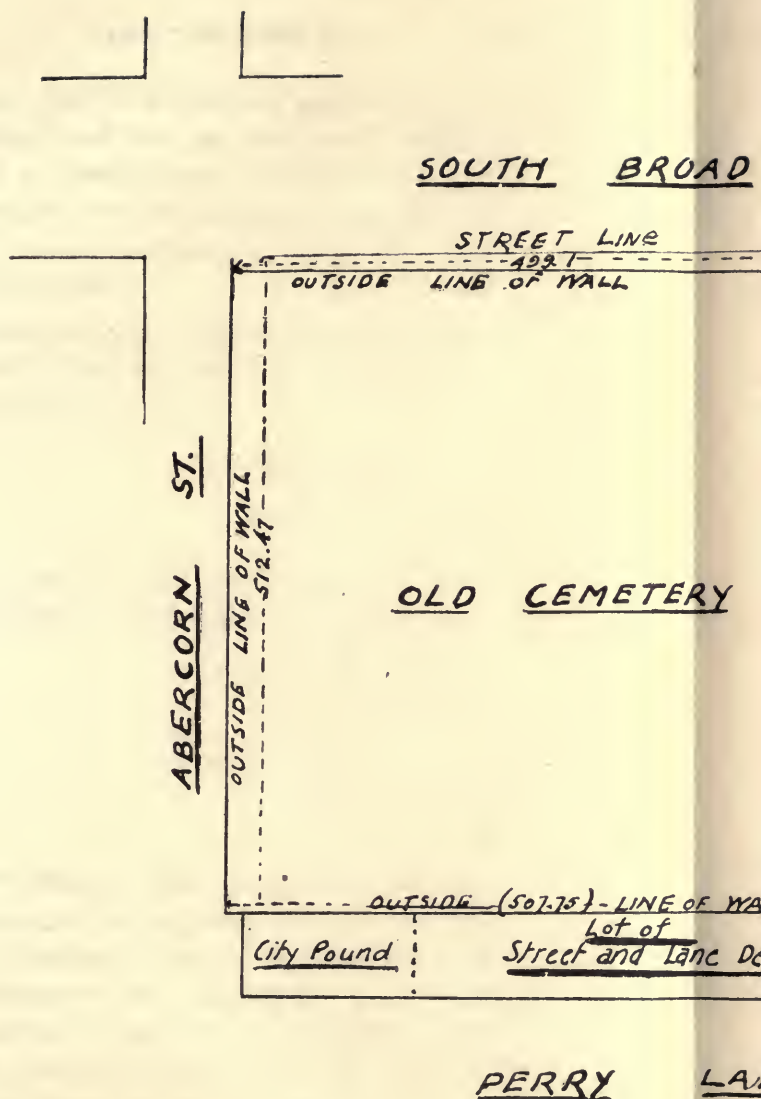
January first, Nineteen hundred and two (1902), without grace, said notes bearing interest at the rate of five (5) per centum per annum, from January first Eighteen hundred and ninety-six (1896) payable semi-annually, without grace, on the first days of July and January of each year thereafter, up to the date of their respective maturities; and upon the payment of said notes the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah, called Christ Church shall have no further claim of any kind whatsoever in or upon said tract of land, or any part thereof, so long as said Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah shall keep the covenants in regard to the preservation of said ground as the last resting place of the dead therein buried, and all and singular, the covenants of this decree mentioned, the said covenants being part and parcel of the consideration moving to said church.

3. That, immediately after the delivery of said promissory notes, the said municipal corporation, The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, shall have the right to tear down the walls, or any portion of same, upon said tract of land, and to use and control all of said tract up to the line of the present wall on Abercorn Street, and up to the line of the present side-walk on South Broad Street, as a public park, to be called "Colonial Park," to and for which uses and purposes said land is hereby perpetually dedicated, and to and for no other uses or purposes whatsoever, with full right to said municipal corporation, to lay off walks through the same, but it shall never have

the right to lay off, run or project streets through the same, nor shall it have the right to convey or sell said tract, or any lot or portion of the same, to any person or persons whatsoever, said park to be under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by ordinances of the City of Savannah, or by its duly constituted authorities, the present line on Abercorn street whereon the brick wall now is to be preserved, said Abercorn street never to be widened along said line, the graves, tombstones monuments, vaults and gravehouses now in said enclosure, to be preserved and cared for, as valued relics of public and historical interest, by said municipal corporation, and not to be removed from their present location, respectively, to any other portion of said park, except when absolutely necessary for the laying out of walks, and in such event, the removal to be carefully made, so as to put the same, or any remains therein, in the same condition, as before said removal. The use of the word "park" and the government by municipal ordinances are never to be construed as divesting the grounds herein considered, of the status they now have, as the old colonial burying ground of Georgia: whilst beautifying the same and placing it under proper control, and giving to the public free access, the main consideration of this agreement to which the parties hereto have arrived, and upon which this decree is based, is that said Old Cemetery, under whatever name called, shall be forever kept and maintained by said City of Savannah for the purpose herein specified, and no use shall ever be imposed

upon it irreconcilable with said purpose, nor shall said Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, nor any person under or through it, directly or indirectly, under any ordinance, claim or pretense, ever have or derive any profit from said ground or any use thereof; nor shall any structure building, apparatus, or appliance, disconnected from or foreign to a burial ground or park, be ever erected in or upon the same, nor shall any vehicles be permitted within the same.

4. That all the foregoing shall be conditions, and covenants running with said land, and if, at any time in the future said municipal corporation should lay off or project any street, or streets, of said city through said land, or should violate this decree, by selling or conveying said land, or any lot or portion of the same, then, and in such event, that portion of said property, being on the corner of South Broad and Abercorn Streets, a parallelogram in shape, containing a western front on Abercorn Street, of two hundred and ten (210) feet from the corner of the present brick wall, and a rectangular depth eastward, of three hundred and eighty (380) feet, shall, at once, be and become the property of the Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah, called Christ Church, in fee simple; it being the intention of this decree to fix, permanently, the status of said property for the uses and purposes of a public park, and to prevent any change in such uses and purposes, at any time in the future, and any citizen of the State of Georgia, upon the breach of any of said



State of Georgia, }  
Chatham County

one Lot of Ground No. Known as old cem.

situated on the South East corner of Abercorn and

SOUTH BR

2nd St. Line  
OUTSIDE LINE OF RIGHT

OLD CEMETERY

WABACON

City Found  
West and to  
outside (corner) line

PERK

State of Georgia,  
Chatham County.

City of Savannah

City of Savannah



covenants, shall be at liberty to apply for an injunction against said City of Savannah, restraining it from any such perversion of the uses of said grounds, and his rights to said injunction (the fact being established) are hereby conceded, as part of the consideration of this decree.

5. That the costs of these causes be paid by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah.

This November 9, 1895,

R. FALLIGANT,

*Judge E. J. C. of Geo.*

We consent that the above decree be signed by Judge Falligant This November 9, 1895.

WALTER G. CHARLTON,

*Solr. for Complainants.*

SAML. B. ADAMS,

*Atty. for Defendant.*

I, A. N. Manucy, Clerk of Council, do certify that the foregoing is the proposed decree of the Superior Court of Chatham County to be taken in the case of John Williamson, *et al.*, complainants, and The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, defendant, and The Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah, called Christ Church, Complainants, and The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, defendant, consolidated, as agreed upon and approved by the Mayor and Aldermen of

the City of Savannah, in council assembled, on November 6, 1895.

A. N. MANUCY,

*Clerk of Council.*

SAVANNAH, GA., Nov. 6, 1895.

(Seal of the City of Savannah.)

Final decree, filed in office Nov. 9, 1895.

JAMES K. P. CARR, *Clerk S. C. C. C. Ga.*

GEORGIA,        }  
CHATHAM COUNTY. }

CLERK'S OFFICE, SUPERIOR COURT.

I, James K. P. Carr, Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, which Court is a Court of Record, do hereby certify the foregoing six pages in typewriting and the map attached hereto, to be a true and correct copy of the final decree rendered in the cause of John Williamson, *et al*, Complainants and The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Defendant; The Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Episcopal Church in Savannah called Christ Church, Complainant and The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Defendant, on November 9th 1895, as appears of record in Chatham Superior Court Minutes Book No. 62, folio 472.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature and affixed the seal of said Court at Savannah Georgia this March 17th 1902.

JAMES K. P. CARR,

(I. S.) *Clerk Superior Court, Chatham County, Geo.*



[Endorsement.]

SUPERIOR COURT

OF

CHATHAM COUNTY GEORGIA.

*In re*

JOHN WILLIAMSON *et al* Complainant

*and*

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH,  
Defendant

---

THE CHURCH WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN OF THE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH IN SAVANNAH, CALLED THE CHRIST CHURCH,  
Complainant

*and*

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH,  
Defendant

"CERTIFIED COPY OF DECREE "

JAMES K. P. CARR, Clerk.

## Appendix F.

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The association of Patriotic Societies cordially invites you to be present on

November 14th, 1902,  
at the ceremonies incidental to the re-interment of the remains of Major-General Nathanael Greene, under the monument heretofore dedicated to his memory in Savannah, Georgia.

In order that arrangements may be made for your entertainment as a guest of the Association on the occasion, from noon on November 13 to noon of November 15th, an early reply is respectfully requested.

The Association of Patriotic Societies consists of the following Representatives :

*The Savannah Chapter,  
Daughters of the American Revolution.*

Mrs. Edward Karow,  
Mrs. A. B. Hull,  
Mrs. R. T. Waller.

*The Georgia Society,  
Colonial Dames of America.*

Mrs. J. J. Wilder,  
Mrs. Annie Waring,  
Mrs. Walter G. Charlton,  
Miss Maria Minis.

*The Georgia Society Sons of the Revolution.*

Hon. Walter G. Charlton,  
Gen. Wm. W. Gordon,  
Mr. Alfred D. Harden.

*The Society of Colonial Wars in Georgia.*

Mr. J. A. G. Carson,  
Dr. T. P. Waring.  
Hon. Frank F. Jones.

*The Georgia Historical Society.*

Hon. William Harden.

*Officers of the Association.*

Wm. W. Gordon, *President.*

*Vice-Presidents.*

Mrs. Edward Karow,  
Mrs. J. J. Wilder,  
Hon. Walter G. Charlton,  
Mr. J. A. G. Carson,  
Hon. Wm. Harden,  
Mr. R. T. Waller, *Secretary.*

# Appendix G.

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## MILITARY ORDERS.

GEORGIA HUSSARS,  
Troop A, 1st Regt. Cav., Ga. S. T.  
SAVANNAH, GA., Nov. 13, 1902.

*Orders No. 40 :*

The troop will assemble at the armory Friday, Nov. 14, 1902, at 2:15 p. m. mounted, in full dress uniform, helmet, plume, black leggings, and gauntlets, to participate in the parade and ceremonies incident to the re-interment of the remains of General Nathanael Greene.

Veteran and country members are invited to turn out with the troop.

WM. W. GORDON, JR.,  
*Captain Commanding.*

---

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BATT. H. A. G. T.  
(Savannah Volunteer Guards),  
SAVANNAH, GA., Nov. 10, 1902.

*General Order No. 16 :*

The battalion is hereby ordered to assemble at the arsenal on Friday, Nov. 14, at 2:45 o'clock p. m., fully uniformed, armed and equipped (gray uniform

campaign hats and leggings), to participate in the parade and ceremonies incident to the re-interment of the remains of General Nathanael Greene.

By order of

MAJOR WILLIAMSON.

H. L. RICHMOND,

*First Lieutenant and Adjutant.*

---

NOTICE.

The Society of the Sons of the Revolution, in the State of Georgia, will assemble in the Superior Court room, on Friday, Nov. 14, 1902, at 2.45 p. m., promptly, to participate in the ceremonies incident to the re-interment of the remains of Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene.

WALTER G. CHARLTON,

*President.*

WM. HARDEN,

*Secretary.*

## Appendix H.

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### PROGRAMME OF GREENE CEREMONIES.

*(From Savannah Morning News: Friday, November 14, 1902.)*

Troops that are to participate in the parade assemble at 3:15 o'clock this afternoon on Oglethorpe avenue, with the right resting on Abercorn street.

George Washington Greene Carpenter will unveil the tablet on the Graham-Mossman vault in the Colonial Cemetery, where the remains of Gen. Greene were originally interred. On behalf of the descendants of Gen. Greene, Hon. Walter G. Charlton will present the tablet to the care and custody of the city. On behalf of the city, Alderman R. L. Colding will receive the tablet.

Procession of troops and carriages will then move on Abercorn street to Liberty, to Bull, to Johnson Square, where the remains of Gen. Nathanael Greene and his son, George Washington Greene, will be placed in the vault that has been fashioned for them beneath the Greene monument. During the progress of the procession, minute guns will be fired. Two pieces of the Chatham Artillery, manned by a detachment, will be established on Bay street, east, where they will be fired at intervals, while the procession is moving from the cemetery to the monument.

The order of the exercises at the monument will be as follows :

Prayer, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Cleland K. Nelson, of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.

Placing of the remains in the vault.

Unveiling of tablet placed on the monument by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Savannah Chapter, Mrs. Edward Karow, regent, withdrawing the veiling flag, and presenting the tablet to the city.

Alderman R. L. Colding's acceptance on behalf of the city.

Music, "America."

Oration, by Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, LL. D., L. H. D., president of the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati, and secretary general of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Music, "Star Spangled Banner."

Benediction, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Nelson.

## Appendix I.

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The platform fronting the monument was filled with people. Among those for whom seats were reserved during the ceremonies were Gen. W. W. Gordon, Rt. Rev. C. K. Nelson, Hon. A. B. Gardiner, His Excellency Charles Dean Kimball, Miss Nightingale, Miss Morel, Miss Johnston, Mrs. R. T. Waller, Mr. P. H. Skipwith, Jr., Mr. G. W. G. Carpenter, R. L. Colding, Esq., Judge Speer, Senator Bacon, Judge S. B. Adams, Hon. R. E. Lester, Judge Pope Barrow, Judge T. M. Norwood, Judge Henry McAlpin, Hon. W. W. Charlton, Col. G. A. Mercer, Hon. Horace F. Horton, Hon. J. E. Banigan, Hon. J. Stacy Brown, Hon. Francis W. Greene, Hon. Frank T. Easton, Capt. Charles H. Howland, Edward Field, Esq., George C. Nightingale, Hon. P. A. Stovall, Hon. J. Ferris Cann, Mr. R. T. Waller, Mr. J. A. G. Carson, Mr. A. D. Harden, Dr. T. P. Waring, Rev. C. H. Strong, W. R. Leaken, Esq., Mr. J. M. Barnard, Jr., Mr. F. D. Bloodworth, Capt. G. B. Pritchard, Col. U. P. Thomassen, Mrs. C. W. Fairbanks, Mrs. R. E. Park, Mrs. T. S. Morgan, Mrs. W. G. Charlton, Mrs. M. A. Lipscomb, Mrs. J. A. Coleman, Mrs. J. M. Bryan, Mrs. J. S. Howkins, Mrs. J. R. Lamar, Mrs. E. Karow, Miss Orme, Mrs. C. A. Gilbert, Miss Emma Coburn, Mrs. J. S. Wood, Mrs. W. L. Peel, Mrs. L. G. Young,



Mrs. A. J. Waring, Mrs. J. J. Wilder, Mrs. W. W. Gordon, Mrs. J. B. S. Holmes, Mrs. W. H. Kiser, Mrs. J. M. Graham, Mrs. C. H. Olmstead, Mrs. O. M. Cone, Miss Susan Olmstead, Mrs. W. A. Winburn, Mrs. R. B. Foy, Mrs. M. B. Hutchins, Mrs. Charles Barney, Mrs. A. F. Boyd, Mrs. M. L. Boyd, Mrs. P. W. Godfrey, Mrs. M. X. Coburn, Mrs. William Dickson, Mrs. William E. Jones, Miss Woodfin, Miss Pritchard, Mrs. Lynah, Mrs. Frank Weldon, Mrs. Floyd, Miss Bradley, Miss Barnard, Mrs. H. G. Jeffries, Mrs. W. H. Yeandle, Miss Louise DeBoss, Mrs. A. B. M. Gibbes, Mrs. R. Van Landingham, Mrs. A. L. Howard, Mrs. G. J. Mills, Mrs. J. B. Cumming, Mrs. W. M. Alexander, Mrs. O. Ashmore, Mrs. J. H. Chappell, Mrs. J. G. Steinheirner, Mrs. T. J. Randolph, Mrs. Louisa Banks, Mrs. W. T. Williams, Mrs. T. S. Tutwiler, Miss A. C. Benning, Mrs. G. H. Remshart, Mrs. J. H. Redding, Mrs. Charles Bell, Mrs. A. H. Jones, Miss A. V. Jones, Mrs. D. Y. Dancy, Mrs. Eastman, Miss Wood, Miss N. B. Harrison, Miss Irene Withers, Mrs. W. D. Simkins, Mrs. G. B. Tiedman, Mrs. I. Y. Sage, Mrs. W. P. Patillo, Mrs. W. W. Curtis, Mrs. Sam. Jones, Mrs. A. O. Harper, Mrs. J. T. Swift, Mrs. R. J. Redding, Mrs. Alfred Healy, Mrs. T. R. Mills, Miss Annie Camack, Mrs. T. O. Chesney, Mrs. Sarah Saunders, Mrs. P. T. Callaway, Mrs. E. P. Dismukes, Miss M. L. Phillips, Mrs. J. G. Lester, Miss Francis Lewis, Miss M. O. Kline, Miss Marie Nisbet, Mrs. C. H. Strong, Mrs. J. C. LeHardy, Mrs. L. M. LeHardy, Mrs. T. S. Wylly, Mrs. W. W. Gordon, Jr., Miss Phoebe Elliott, Hon. Herman

Myers, Alderman J. M. Dixon, Alderman H. H. Bacon, Alderman A. J. Garfunkel, Alderman J. J. Horrigan, Alderman E. M. Frank, Alderman E. A. M. Schroeder, Alderman F. F. Jones, Alderman J. F. Canty, Alderman R. L. Holland, Alderman W. J. Watson, Alderman D. R. Thomas, Mr. P. D. Daffin, Mr. G. J. Baldwin, Mr. J. H. Entelman, Mr. Charles Ellis, Mr. I. A. Solomons, Capt. G. M. Gadsden, Mr. A. B. Elliott, Mr. J. Taliaferro, Mr. J. C. Postell, Mr. L. R. Wylly, Dr. Corbin, Mr. P. E. Twiggs, Capt. R. E. Park, Hon. William Harden, Mr. R. J. Travis, Mr. G. H. Remshart, Mr. M. S. Baker, Dr. T. B. Chisholm, Mr. T. P. Ravenel, Mr. G. I. Taggart, Mr. W. P. Hardee, Mr. W. C. Offutt, Mr. R. L. Wylly, Mr. J. F. Myers, Mr. J. F. Minis, Mr. S. E. Theus, Mr. G. T. Cann, Mr. R. H. Wylly, Mr. T. J. Sheftall, Mr. Hugh V. Washington, Dr. W. B. Burroughs, Mr. George W. Wylly, Mr. G. Noble Jones, Mr. D. E. Huger Smith, Mr. William Dearing, Mr. Charles Ellis, Mr. John M. Eagan, Mr. T. D. Cline, Mr. Richard W. Powers, Capt. John Flannery, Maj. Edw. Karow, Mr. Joseph Hull, Mr. S. P. Shotter, Mr. J. J. Kirby, Mr. C. H. Wilcox, Mr. H. D. Stevens, Mr. T. H. McMillan, Col. J. H. Estill, Mr. Leopold Adler, Mr. B. H. Levy, Mr. Henry Levy, Mr. J. B. Chesnut, Mr. J. J. O'Neill, Mr. Joseph W. Jackson, Mr. W. D. Krenson, and Mr. Lee Roy Myers.

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